

# NEGLIGENCE AT MANIPAL - THE PINKY SINGH CASE COMPENSATION HAS TO BE COMMENSURATE WITH EARNING CAPACITY: MANIPAL

ON pg 7



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Sunday, 20 June, 2004

Vol. 3 No. 77

Gangtok □ Rs. 3

# NOW!

DAILY

FIRST WITH THE NEWS

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# ADMISSION WORRIES AT SGC

SUBASH RAI

**GANGTOK, 19 June:** The Admission Committee of Sikkim Government College, Tadong, is close to panic mode. With existing facilities capable of accommodating only 980 students, the SGC management is at its wits end on how to short-list the more than 1,800 students who have collected admission forms for academic session 2004-05 from the college. So heavy was the rush for admissions at the college that the management had to extend the last date by one more day to 20 June, Sunday.

The rush at the SGC gates is interesting. It appears that almost

## SGC HAS CAPACITY TO ADJUST BARELY HALF THE ADMISSION SEEKERS



## SITUATION COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF DEPTT HAD WOKEN UP IN TIME

80 per cent of the students who took the class XII exams from Sikkim are seeking admission here. Of course, some of the 1,800 could be students from outside seeking admission here. Unconfirmed figures for Sikkim suggest that around 2300 students passed out from class XII this year.

Students lined up at SGC, Tadong to submit their admission forms on 19 June, the last date to do so. So heavy was the rush that the last date was extended to Sunday.

The college, as mentioned earlier, has a total capacity [in all three streams of Humanities, Science and Commerce] to accommodate around

980 students divided in its morning and day shifts. Of this, the Humanities section has 640 seats, Science 240 and Commerce, which has only morning shift, 120 seats. If day shifts were started for Commerce too, an additional 80 students could be accommodated, it is learnt.

The problem is definitely acute. But why is it so?

Speaking to NOW!, Dr. MP Kharel, Convener of the Admission Committee said, "We have submitted

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# KAZI TERMS BURNING OF VEHICLE A "TERRORIST ACT"

a NOW REPORT

**GANGTOK, 19 June:** SPCC [I] general secretary, press and media, Jigme Kazi, today termed the torching of his vehicle on the night of 14 June as a "terrorist act" aimed at harming him and his family. Mr.

Kazi has also expressed his regret over the failure of the media to condemn the incident.

"We were lucky that there was no more damage than that done to the jeep," he says.

He further reveals that the par-

turn to pg 7

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# NOW!

FIRST WITH THE NEWS

## Furthering Studies

The near panic among the admission committee members of the Sikkim Government College, Tadong, is understandable. Going through some 1800 admission forms when they know they can accommodate barely half is a heart-wrenching [and also tedious] job. Most students who opt for Gangtok to pursue higher education have their reasons. Some might not be able to afford further studies elsewhere, some might not have the marks for it and some might have personal reasons which keep them here. All should thus be rightfully accommodated here. But they can't. And the admission committee, because it is made up of the faculty, of lecturers and professors who have chosen teaching as their profession, are justified if they get vocal about the administrative lethargy which forces them to deny education to willing students. The college management might have been caught off-guard with the deluge of admission seekers, but the Education Department has no reason to defend the admission crisis that is brewing here. The department, after all, knew fully well that more than 2,000 students would be seeking admission when the State has capacity for barely 1200 in its degree colleges. Shouldn't the Department have made arrangements in advance in anticipation of this rush?

While there is no denying the fact that the Department has to shoulder the blame if students go through the year without a college to go to, the students are also responsible to some extent. There are many polytechnic institutes in the State now and also other options to pursue after class XII. A college degree is not something that everyone has to procure unless it is competitive exams and further academic pursuit that a student plans for the future. For such students, their marks should be good enough to gain them admission anywhere. It is the rest of the lot that needs to find its aptitude in fields other than the academia to pursue and hone. Acquiring job skills would hold them in better stead than less than average marks in graduation or losing years pursuing that degree which will still be no guarantee of employment later. Here again the Department has failed the students. There is very little that happens in schools in Sikkim by way of career counselling. This is necessary in the present times of parched job markets. The Department has also failed in advertising the other options available to those passing out of schools to choose from. These options don't only need to be advertised, but also promoted well in school campuses, so that students can at least make a more informed decision later. Most will, however, still opt for a degree course which is why something needs to be done about the intake capacity of the colleges here.

## Sikkim Snow Toad, World's Highest Amphibian?

USHA LACHUNGPA

We live in the Himalayas, the highest mountains of the world. Our crowning glory is the cold desert of Tso Lhamo, a part of the Tibetan plateau in Sikkim. This area of the "Lake of the Lady" is our share of the "Roof of the World". The entire plateau, with its lakes is the main watershed of our lifeline, river Tista. It is so eco-fragile; any small disturbance can cause irreversible damage to the ecosystem and could threaten our very survival. It has now given us one more feather in our cap, one more insight into its mystery.

One of the most unique wilderness areas and hauntingly beautiful, our plateau is roamed by at least four species globally threatened with extinction, like Snow Leopard, Nayan or the Great Tibetan Sheep, Black-necked Crane and Lesser Kestrel. In addition to these, all the wildlife found here is so endangered that they are protected under the Indian Wildlife [Protection] Act.

The Forest Department has long been documenting the bio-diversity of this cold desert and trans-Himalayan part of Sikkim. However over the last three years we intensified surveys through the Alpine Grassland Ecology Project with the Bombay Natural History Society. We documented much of the major wildlife as well as the migratory birds stopping over to rest on the great lakes of Gyam Tsona, Gurudongmar Tso and Tso Lhamo as well as the wetlands of the Lhonak and Lashar Valleys.

Every visit was fraught with anticipation and almost always yielded some new record, some exciting finding. Migratory birds called Avocets with their blue legs, Common Stonechats on passage, Kiang or Tibetan Wild Asses with foals, Horned Lark eggs in a neat cup shaped nest on the ground, a breeding wader called the Mongolian Plover, an unidentified eagle with a white patch on its head and tail, and...large tadpoles in the lakes!

Over these years we found that all the lakes despite their numbingly cold water were surprisingly not devoid of life. In the short spring period between July-October, the waters fairly teemed with life; no fish, but aquatic plants, beetles, isopods, even snails and these big, pale tadpoles.

What were they, Frogs or Toads? Did they over-winter as tadpoles under the snow and ice, we wondered, because we found them even during winters. By then they should have metamorphosed into adults. When however we found small adults in Lhonak on a trip to Green Lake, could not get photographic evidence because the camera would not work in the cold. Keeping the religious sentiments of the local people in mind, we did not collect any specimens for preservation. Very unscientific.

Preliminary efforts at identification and literature search suggested these tadpoles could be Scutigter sikkimensis one of the Pelobatid Toads. Later we photographed a breeding pair at Thangu which JC.Daniel of Bombay Natural His-

tory Society confirmed as the same and published in his "Book of Indian Reptiles and Amphibians".

It is commonly called the Sikkim Snow Toad. Last year we could not find any tadpoles in the entire area and wondered why. This year was warmer and for the first time in so many years, we could find adults in most wetlands.

We put out an SOS on the internet for their identification and care and were rewarded with a flood of suggestions from some of the world's leading herpetologists [scientists specializing on amphibians, frogs and toads] and reptiles, tortoises, snakes, lizards] from Italy, France, Chicago, New York, Netherlands, British Channel Islands and Malaysia.

The world's highest altitude amphibians could only be from the Himalayas and Dr. Indraneil Das, one of India's renowned herpetologists and Associate Professor, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak confirmed recently that our Sikkim Snow Toad was indeed the world's highest amphibian!

And what more, we have not one, but perhaps two types of Sikkim Snow Toads; the second reported so far only from China!! Yet another new record for Sikkim. Recent events like the gradual drying up of our "Ocean-lake" Gyam Tsona mean we are in danger of losing this new record together with the lake due to lack of awareness.

-The writer is Sr. Research Officer [Wild Life], with the Government of Sikkim

## THE REPORT THAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT-2

Form : "A"

1. At least 40 forms - "A" bearing the seal and signature of Special Invitee, In-charge Sikkim - of the INC (Shri.Salman Khurshid) reached party office by post in the first week of April 2004.

2. After perusing the said forms, I obtained the specimen signature of the SPCC President in the relevant space of each form, and kept the same in safe custody.

3. One Form - "A" duly filled in by me in black ink, was handed over to Mr. Biraj Adhikari who personally wanted to submit the same along with his Nomination Papers, to the Returning Officer, East, on April 20,2004. An acknowledgement of receipt of Form "A" in respect of Shri Adhikari was obtained by me on April 20 itself.

4. On April 22, 2004, I sent one copy of Form "A", duly filled in with my own hand, to the Chief Electoral Officer, Gangtok with a covering letter and obtained acknowledgement.

5. On April 22, 2004, I filled in the relevant particulars of all candidates (32) of the Assembly Constituencies with my own hand (in black ink) and sent the Form "A" to the R.O. as under:

(a) 13 Forms "A" to the R.O. East, in respect of 12 candidates including the Sangha candidate;

(b) 03 Forms "A" to the R.O. North;

I filled only one Form-B, the rest were someone else's responsibility: Hem Lal Bhandari

(c) 09 Forms "A" to the R.O. West and (d) 07 Forms "A" to the R.O. South. Total: 32 (Thirty Two). The R.O.s acknowledged the receipt of all.

6. The remaining seven (07) Forms "A" (unused) were kept in party office in the relevant file.

Form: "B"

1. I had only one copy of printed Form "B" with me in office. When I called up the R.O. East to ask for at least 35 printed ones, he said even photocopies of the same would be accepted. Mr.

O.T.Bhutia, Vice-President, SPCC made as many as 40 or 42 photocopies of Form "B", obtained the specimen signature of the SPCC President with seal of the INC, and handed over to me in party office on April 17, 2004.

2. Mr. D.K.Singh, Advocate, was directly engaged by the President, SPCC to assist me

and ensure that all nomination papers, affidavits, etc, were filled in by our candidates within the specified time/date and filed in the respective offices of the four Returning Officers of the state.

3. Advocate D.K.Singh assisted me from April 15 to 22 (07:15 a.m) only.

4. While Advocate D.K.Singh helped me with the task of filling in the Nomination Papers, affidavits of our candidates with utmost care and dedication, he also assumed the responsibility of filling in the relevant particulars of candidates in all the 32 Form "B" of Assembly constituency candidates. I distinctly remember Advocate Singh filling in Form "B" on April 20 and 21, mostly after 10:00 pm. (As already indicated, Form "B" in respect of Shri Biraj Adhikari was filled in with my own hand in black ink on

22.4.2004.

5. On April 22, 2004, Advocate D.K.Singh suddenly left for Namchi at about 7:15 a.m saying he was instructed by the President SPCC and Shri L.P.Tiwari to be present there in the forenoon. Before leaving the party office, Advocate Singh had completed his work and his presence in Namchi on 22.4.2004 was absolutely essential.

6. I was all alone in the party office to complete the task of filling in Nomination Forms, affidavits of as many as eight to ten candidates. The workload on my head was so tremendous that I had to complete everything by the evening of April 22, since April 23 was the last date for making nominations.

7. Time was running out and I was bound to complete the entire task of completing the nomination papers, affidavits, Form "A" & "B" by the evening of April 22, 2004. There was no one to assist me (after Singh's departure) except Mr. O.T.Bhutia who, in all fairness to him did not do any writing work or overseeing the nomination papers.

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### DOCUMENT

Almost a month before he was expelled from the State Congress on 11 June, the SPCC III General Secretary (Legal Cell), Hem Lal Bhandari, had prepared a report on the reasons behind the four constituencies that the Cong III lost even before the State went to poll. This document was never made public, but is important because it presents Mr. Bhandari's point of view. NOW! serialises the entire document.

## Admission worries at SGC

Contd from pg 1

ted several proposals, including establishment of a new Arts College in the State, to the Government but there has been no response."

He said that the college is already facing a shortage of faculty and space and is in no position to expand further.

The admission committee is toying with several ideas of deciding on a stricter cut-off percentage and other such ideas, but is still uncomfortable with the idea that several students will be denied a chance to pursue further education with them. Had the department heeded their advice in time, this situation would not have arose, they feel.

What is also interesting this year is the rush for SGC, Tadong.

Asked why more students opt for Tadong college, Dr. Kharel said, "Everyone wants to come to the capital to get better exposure, so we can not stop them seeking admission."

He further disclosed that the Namchi College had a capacity of around 300 which could adjust some of the spill-over from Gangtok.

Can the college accommodate all the admission seekers?

"If we are forced to, then we can give admission to everyone, but we will not be able to ensure proper studies," Dr. Kharel said.

He further stressed that the problem was not of the college management alone. The general public should also recognise the problem and pressure the policy makers to address the problem at the earliest.

### MAHAGURU BHUM-TSOG

On the advice of Private Office of H.H. The Dalai Lama, the Tibetan Welfare Office and all the Tibetan Community living in Sikkim will offer **MAHAGURU BHUM-TSOG (TSOG-BUM)** at **Guru Lhakhang, Deorali** from **21<sup>st</sup> June to 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2004**. Generous donors are requested to contact **Guru Lhakhang** for donation.

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**(Mr. NGAWANG NORBU)**

Tibetan Welfare Office  
Gangtok, Sikkim

# Lord Jagannath marches through the streets of Gangtok

SAGAR CHETTRI

**GANGTOK, June 19:** The MG Marg was packed with people from all faiths and all walks of life who had come out to accompany the Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath which marched through the streets this evening.

The Yatra started at around 5 in the evening from Tourism office after prayers at Thakurbari, and it passed through MG Marg, New Market and ended at the starting point. The Rath was pulled by people of all ages even as a band played along to the merriment of a singing and dancing crowd. The priests were seen busy distributing *prasads* to the people on the streets gathered to seek a *darshan* and touch the chariot and its rope.

Later, the organizing committee expressed its gratitude to the State government, administration, Police, Culture Department and public in general who made the occasion such a grand success.

Chief Justice RK Patra and Gangtok area MLA, NK Pradhan were present as the chief guests on the occasion.



The Jagannath Rath Yatra or the "chariot journey of Lord Jagannath," is a festival that celebrates the annual visit of the Lord to his birthplace. The Jagannath Temple at Puri, Orissa is the biggest of all venues for the

celebrations.

Several lakh people converge at Puri for this festival. An atmosphere of almost hysterical devotion prevails on this day and in earlier years, devotees were known to have thrown themselves

under the wheels of the rath in the hope of attaining instant salvation. No such excesses were witnessed in Gangtok, although the mood here too was close to hysterical devotion.

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## ABVP institutes students award honouring Sanjog Chettri

a NOW REPORT

**NAMCHI, 19 June:** ABVP, Namchi branch, has announced plans to institute an award in the memory of Namchi's gallant son, Ashoka Chakra recipient [posthumously] Sanjog Chettri. The award, names "Shahid Sanjog Chettri Puraskar," will be given to students from South Sikkim schools who have topped their respective schools in class X and XII. This initiative is part of the ABVP's decision to start observing Student's Day [9 July] in a grand manner from this year onwards.

Senior Secondary level students from eight South Sikkim schools and toppers from the 28 Secondary schools will be awarded on the occasion.

There is also a special award for the district topper from both Senior Secondary and Secondary level along with a "best student award" for one student from Namchi Govt. College.

On the occasion, ABVP, Namchi, will also felicitate various teachers of South district who have received national awards for their service to education in the State.

"We are sure that this effort will encourage the students of the district and at the same time the name of Sikkim's son, Sanjog Chettri will be immortalised among the students here," said Jairam Gupta, an ABVP member from Namchi.

## Vajpayee has a change of heart on Modi

On the eve of the crucial Bharatiya Janata Party Parliamentary Board meeting on Sunday, former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee appeared to have piped down a bit on Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi saying the issue of his removal is now a "thing of the past."

"That has become an issue of the past. Look at the new year and the coming assembly elections, which we have to face," he told reporters at Bhuntar [Kullu] when asked whether he still favoured Modi's removal.

He was talking to reporters before leaving for Delhi ending his week-long vacation.

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## NK SAYS GMC IS ABOUT DECENTRALISATION OF POWER, LOCAL BUSINESSMEN UPBEAT

a NOW REPORT

**GANGTOK, June 17:** After the recent announcement of the Government that Gangtok Municipal Corporation elections will be held soon, the business community here is hopeful of better times ahead.

The GMC was first established 1976 during Kazi Lhendup Dorji's chief ministership with Balchand Sarda nominated as the first chairman of the corporation, a post he held till the GMC was dissolved some time in 1979.

Area MLA, NK Pradhan, while speaking to NOW!, revealed that though he was an officer on deputation to GMC at the time, even he

was not told of the reasons why the GMC experiment was so short-lived and discontinued in 1979 without seeing a single election.

On the proposal to revive it, he said, "It is the Centre's plan to have Municipal Corporation in every town and also the Chief Minister wanted to decentralize the power to urban areas through this body as is done in the case of rural areas through panchayats."

Mr. Pradhan added that GMC will be an autonomous body and UD&HD may be its nodal department. Regarding the responsibilities of GMC, he said that its main responsibilities would be to upgrade and maintain civil amenities

in the capital city.

He also revealed that delay in demarcation of wards for Gangtok was the main reason delaying the first elections to the GMC. He, however, added that the concerned department was going through the process "wholeheartedly".

"The election manifesto is the guide to our future works and GMC elections are promised in it. So, we will definitely have a GMC here and hold the elections very soon," he assured.

Recalling the past, Ramesh Perival, a member of the local business community, informs that the corporation used to look after renewal and issue of Trade License, garbage

disposal, allotment of sites, etc.

At that time, election could not take place because wards for Gangtok were not separated and separate electoral rolls could not be prepared. Later, the corporation was done away with because the government wanted to use it in a broader way. The GMC's responsibilities were handed over to the then LSG Department, the present UD&HD.

On the proposed creation of GMC, the local business community is convinced that with this move, "Gangtok will become the best capital town in the country." Interestingly, the Sikkim Chamber of Commerce has assured full support to this proposal.

## High Court Lok Adalat disposes 13 cases

a NOW REPORT

**GANGTOK, 19 June:** The High Court Lok Adalat which sat today disposed as many as 13 cases through the day and has set 31 July as the next date for its hearings.

The Lok Adalat, held in the High Court premises was presided over by Mr. Justice RK Patra, Chief Justice and Patron-in-Chief of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, and Mr. Justice NS Singh, Judge and Executive Chairman, Sikkim State Legal Services Authority.

Others who sat at today's Lok Adalat were advisors to the State Government Tashi Tobden and TW Barfungpa and PM Subba, members of High Court Lok Adalat.

In all, 31 Motor Accident Claims cases which were instituted against National Insurance Company, New India Assurance Company, United India Insurance Company and Bajaj Alliance Company by the petitioners and one prelitigative transfer of property were taken up for settlement.

The Sikkim State Legal Services Authority has been implementing related schemes and programmes effectively since the day of its inception by providing free legal services and holding Lok Adalats in the High Court, Districts and Talukas, informs an IPR press release.

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## CHAMLING VISITS HARDWAR, MEETS SWAMI RAMDEVJI MAHARAJ

a NOW REPORT

**GANGTOK, 19 June:** The Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling today performed *Aarati* at Hardwar with more than one and half lakh devotees. The Chief Minister is presently in Uttranchal on a pilgrimage.

At Hardwar, Mr. Chamling met renowned Yogi and Baidh, Swami Ramdevji Maharaj at his ashram

and participated in a yoga class there. While referring to Mr. Chamling as a religious political leader, Swami Ramdevji appreciated the CM's track-record of development in Sikkim, informs an SDF press release.

The Swamiji is also reported to have referred to Sikkim as the Lord of Natural Resources and suggested that the State exploit and market its wealth of medicinal plants judi-

ciously on a global scale.

The Chief Minister was scheduled to reach Dehradun later this evening where he will be meeting Uttranchal Chief Minister, ND Tewari.

Mr. Chamling is accompanied by his family and an entourage which includes press advisor, BB Gooroo, political secretary, OT Lepcha, Wok MLA, CB Karki and assistant, IB Rai.

## GNLF launches civic poll campaign with promises of Gorkhaland

KARAN SHAH

**KALIMPONG, 19 June:** The GNLF, in its first public address held at Damber Chowk today for the upcoming civic polls reiterated its commitment to finding solutions for Kalimpong's civic problems and stressed its continued commitment to pursue the demand for Gorkhaland. The public meeting was preceded by

a motor rally comprising of some 300 vehicles through the town.

Speakers at the meet called for public support in the form of votes at the civic polls to strengthen the party's pursuit of Gorkhaland.

Referring to the massive nomination of 103 candidates for the municipality polls, which has many dissident GNLF leaders in the fray, Dawa Pakhrin, Executive Councilor

DGAHC, said: "They still have the next three days in hands to back out."

He also said that the five-party coalition, the People's Democratic Front [PDF], was aiming only at a Council chair while GNLF had set its sights much higher at separate state status. He also castigated the PDF for ignoring all the positive work done by the GNLF and busy-ing itself only with criticism.

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# STATE CONG WELCOMES CENTRAL DECISION TO DEFER NATHULA

**a NOW REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 19 June:** The Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee has welcomed the decision of the Prime Minister to defer the re-opening of the traditional trade route through the Nathula to 2005, informs a party press release.

This decision, the State Congress believes, is in the interest of the people of Sikkim and national security concerns in this "sensitive and strategic border region."

The Prime Minister, Dr.

Manmohan Singh, it might be recalled, told the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling at a recent meeting that Nathula would be reopened only next year after all the pros and cons had been reviewed.

It is learnt that the final decision on the trade route will be taken only after an in-depth analysis of trade through Nathula and the rights and interests of the Sikkimese people.

The Nathula trade route was scheduled to be opened next month. The SPCC [I] had however vehemently objected to its opening before the long-pending demands for

restoration of the political rights of the three ethnic communities in Sikkim were fulfilled.

The SPCC [I] also wants assurances of adequate economic benefits for the people in the state before the route is re-opened. Added to this is the demand for proper infrastructure before opening the traditional trade route.

The press release informs that the Congress President, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, had expressed the same view as the prime minister when the chief minister, Mr. Chamling called on her.



## Chirim-Rumfaat at Ringhem

**MANGAN, 19 June:** The annual "Chirim-Rumfaat" [pic left] was held at Ringhem on 16 June with prayers conducted by Bongthing Tashi Lepcha. Organized by the panchayat of Ringhem-Nampatam with local participation, the puja is held to propitiate the Gods for favourable weather and good crop cultivation and overall peace and prosperity.

# Those Special CRPF Sundays at Mangan

**DEEPAK SHARMA**

**MANGAN, 19 June:** Time goes by and memory fails. So often we forget the moments that made us happy in our past. But for some in Mangan, the memory of the Special Sundays spent in the decade spanning 1975-1985 will always remain alive.

Sundays at that time became associated with activities held at the CRPF colony. It was a time when there were no video halls or any other source of entertainment. So most Manganites, especially the young, headed to the Colony where at the CRPF Langar you could satiate yourself with hot Aloo-dum and parathas.

This culinary delight was followed by Hindi films brought by the CRPF jawans from Gangtok. A screen would quickly be put in place nailed to two bamboo poles along the road next to the Colony.



The old CRPF Colony at Mangan

Families would huddle together, whatever the season and have their weekly movie-going experience.

"I was a child at that time, but I remember being taken by my two older brothers to watch the films shown by the CRPF," remembers Kalzang.

Today, the CRPF is no longer sta-

tioned at Mangan. It is also no longer a problem seeing movies at Mangan. In the place of the CRPF Colony is the Post Office Building and PHE quarters. But in the heart of many of the Mangan people, the memories of an era gone by when Sundays were synonymous with movies at the CRPF colony are still alive.

# Mother & Child health concerns addressed at Kitam

**a NOW REPORT**

**NAMCHI, 19 June:** A "mother and child health care-cum-medical support to BPL families" camp was held today at Kitam Secondary school premises. The meet was organised by Munal Club of Kitam and funded by Mickhola-Kitam gram panchayat unit.

BM Rai, upadhakshya [South], presided over the day's activities as the chief guest.

At the start, Additional Director [Nutritional Cell], spoke on the need for balanced nutrition for children to protect them from such ailments as anaemia and night-blindness.

Roshan Kaushik, NSS volunteer of NYK stressed on mental and spiritual health and spoke on how important a healthy environment was for the proper mental development of a child.

Dr. Bimal Rai, GRCHO, in his address, focused on how premature preg-

nancies could prove fatal for women and how better health education was required to avoid this mortality.

He further revealed that at present, about 80 to 84 per cent of the children in South Sikkim were covered in the vaccination drive and announced that the target was to achieve 100 per cent immunisation by 2010.

He further said that infant mortality could be minimised through awareness and urged the gathered parents to approach health workers the moment they notice signs of vitamin, iron or calcium deficiency in their children.

The chief guest, Mr. Rai, in turn stressed that instead of running behind governmental sops, the society should focus on social and health issues.

Today, along with this counselling, free health-care was also provided to around 150 villagers by Dr. BM Rai, former CMO Namchi Govt. Hospital and Dr. Bimal Rai, GRCHO.

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**Portugal's SC refuses to extradite Salem**

Portugal's supreme court has overturned a decision by a lower Lisbon court to grant India's request for the extradition of gangster Abu Salem.

The SC upheld his appeal against extradition, Joao Nabais, Salem's lawyer, told Lisbon radio TSF on Friday.

Based on the SC's ruling, the case was to return to the lower court for a review of its earlier decision.

Salem's extradition will be delayed until the lower court's decision. That is not expected until after

the summer recess in September.

Salem was arrested in Lisbon in September 2002. Last November, a Lisbon court convicted him of using forged identity papers and resisting arrest. He was sentenced to 4 1/2 years in jail.

Nabais had previously argued that Salem would not get a fair trial in India and claimed that his life would be in danger if he returned there.

Salem is wanted in India in connection with the 1993 serial blasts in Mumbai, which killed 257 people, and many other cases.

**NEPAL-INDIA BEGIN TALKS ON DUTY RETURN PROCEDURE**

**KATHMANDU, 19 June:** Nepal and India began three days of talks in Kathmandu yesterday on simplifying Duty Return Procedure or DRP between the two countries.

The talks are expected to focus on ways to return excise duty paid on Nepalese export to India on time and without complications.

The Indian side has already expressed its commitment to adopt a more scientific method in the return process.

Under the Nepal-India Com-

merce treaty, Indian side collects the 16 percent excise duty on Nepalese exports and is returned to Nepal through government channels.

Nepal has already received 2.58 billion rupees in DPR, which is 370 million rupees more than targeted for this fiscal year.

Director General of Department of Customs Krishna Hari Baskota leads the Nepalese delegation while the Indian side is led by Director General of Inspection, Customs and Central Excise TR Rustogi.



Fernando Morientes of Spain

**Today, 20th June, 2004 - Spain vs Portugal on ESPN at 23:30 IST**

Only a win will see the host nation progress in Euro 2004. EventsMarket punters rate this match as the closest of the tournament so far. Spain with prices of 2.86 [Back] and 2.90 [Lay] are given a 34.5-35.0% chance of victory, while Portugal are rated a 35.7-36.2% probability of winning with a Back price of 2.76 and a Lay price of 2.80.

**I filled only one Form-B, the rest were someone else's responsibility: Hem Lall Bhandari**

Contd on pg 2

8. By way of abundant caution, I typed covering letters for Form "A" and "B" addressed to the four R.Os and despatched four packets of Form "A" & "B" (in each packet) through -

- (1) Mr. O.T.Bhunia - packets for the R.O. East, West and South.
- (2) Mr. Gyurme Bhutia - R.O. North.

This was done at about 10-11 a.m. of 22.4.2004 when Mr. O.T.Bhunia was present with me and he had actually stapled the three packets before despatch. I do not remember whether he checked the papers (i.e. Form "A" and "B") before sealing in the envelopes. I had instructed Shri O.T.Bhunia and Shri Gyurme Bhutia to obtain acknowledgement from the four R.Os

9. All the four R.Os received the packets of Form "A" & "B" on 22.4.2004 before 3 p.m. Acknowledgements have been obtained from the respective R.Os.

**Rejection of Three Nomination Papers: South**

1. I have already indicated in my notes and comments on Form "B" that Advocate D.K.Singh was assigned the responsibility to fill in all the 32 Forms "B". He had left for Namchi on April 22, 2004 at 7:00 a.m. or so saying he had completed his work.

2. On April 24, 2004 (the date fixed for scrutiny) I was present before the Chief Returning Officer at Gangtok, to represent the 14 candidates of our party, including the Sangha and the Lok Sabha candidate.

3. In Namchi, on April 24, 2004, the returning Officer rejected the Nomination papers of three candidates of our party. Shri Youva Raj Rai's Nomination Paper was rejected at 1:00 p.m., Shri Amar Yonzone's at 1:30 p.m. and Shri Taraman Chettri's at 3:30 p.m. by separate orders dated 24 April, 2004.

4. All the three orders of rejection are couched in identical words. The operative part of the orders is reproduced hereunder.

"...during the process of examination of Form "B", it was found...the columns 2,3 and 4 were found to be blank and no details were whatsoever were mentioned in the columns" and further that "Form 'A' has been submitted but Form 'B' has not been submitted." (Emphasis added)

5. Seven (07) Form "B" in respect of the seven INC candidates of the South District were duly received by the returning Officer, on April 22, 2004 at 1:30 p.m. I have obtained acknowledgement from the Returning Officer, South.

6. There is apparent contradiction in the three orders aforesaid. On the one hand, the order states that the columns 2,3, and 4 of Form "B" was "blank" and the same order says "Form "B" has not been submitted. This has led me to utter confusion. However, I am very clear in my mind that I could not have, by any stretch of imagination, committed such an error when none of the four R'O's found no error or discrepancy in any of the 34 nomination papers, affidavits of our candidates, which were completed in party office with tremendous efforts.

7. On the rejection of three nomination papers and non-filing of one (by Shri palden Bhutia), I, along with four senior office-bearers of the party have expressed our views and legal contentions, in a detailed representation dated May 01,2004, submitted to the Chief election Commissioner of India, at Gangtok. I repeat and reiterate the same in seriatim.

8. Advocate Mr. D.K.Singh who assisted me, may be in a position to throw more light and also Mr. O.T.Bhunia who gave a helping hand at times.

-concluding part tomorrow

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For any further information contact: The Admission Officer, SMU, 5th Mile, Tadong, Gangtok, Sikkim - 737 102 Phone: 03592-270389, 270535 Fax: 03592-231147, 231162 Email: smu31147@hotmail.com  
REGISTRAR  
Sikkim Manipal University of Health Medical and Technological Sciences, Gangtok.

*Anthyesti Kriya*  
The Anthyesti Kriya of our beloved mother late Leelawati Agarwal (Siliguri) who left her heavenly abode late 12 June, 2004 falls on 24 June 2004. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at Rhenock, East Sikkim. We would also like to take this opportunity to thanks all those who extended their help in our hour of bereavement.  
Ramavtar Agarwal, Santosb Agarwal, Sunil Agarwal & Anup Agarwal (sons)  
Phone: (03592) 253306, 253307, 253963

**NEGLIGENCE AT MANIPAL - THE PINKY SINGH CASE**

# Compensation has to be commensurate with earning capacity: Manipal

**a NOW REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 19 June:** The dean of the Central Referral Hospital here at 5th Mile, today, while speaking to NOW! informed that the army jawan, SP Singh, whose wife, Pinky, suffered serious burns on her leg while undergoing a minor tubectomy operation, had contacted the Manipal administration. "He made a claim of Rs. 10 lakhs as compensation for the accident incurred on his wife while in the care of Manipal," he revealed. He further said that while the management of the hospital was open to a sympathetic consideration of the amount to be paid as compensation, the same could not be decided upon arbitrarily by the other party. "The earning capacity of the victim has to be taken into account. There has to be some criteria to decide the amount to be paid as compensation," said the Dean. The Dean also revealed that he

had met SP Singh a couple of times in the past few days and had conveyed his message of cooperation in the matter. "He had said that he would talk it over with us but now we are hearing through the media that he will be taking the matter to the courts," said the Dean. Incidentally, the Manipal administration as informed by the Dean had asked the jawan to bring his wife over to the hospital to "make an assessment" of the extent of injury caused to his wife. "She said she was in no position to come but we did receive a call from her today saying that she would talk the matter over with her husband. We are even willing to go over to her place to examine her leg," the Dean assured. Incidentally, the burns on Pinky's leg, the CRH management claims, were caused by a blower which had been left on by her side after she was admitted to the ICU. There are also those who believe

that something went wrong in the operation theatre itself. As to the reason why Pinky had to be ever admitted to the ICU, a senior doctor on the condition of anonymity, reveals that since the hospital does not have a post operative ward, it is a normal practise to take a patient to the ICU immediately after operation. "There, the patient is kept for a night at the most," he says. In the case of Pinky, she had to stay in the hospital for a couple of months after what should have been a simple operation. The doctor also admits that the post operative treatment of Pinky was "irresponsible". "A skin grafting treatment would at the most take only a week, but she was here for two months," he says. As for the persons who could be held accountable, he says that though the nurses keep constant watch on their patient they "only follow directions of the doctors."

# MANITA MANGER SPEAKS OUT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

**a NOW REPORT**

**PAKYONG, 19 June:** A Health Awareness camp was inaugurated by Manita Thapa, area MLA, Loosing Pacheykhani, here on 17 June. The camp was held in collaboration with the Health & Family Welfare department. Addressing the participants at the camp, Ms. Thapa said, "Health is wealth, it cannot be purchased nor borrowed from others." Asking all to stay away from substance abuse, she stressed on the need for awareness among the youth on the harmful and debilitating effects of drugs.

She also asked women to stay healthy and shared many health tips, reiterating the need for regular check-ups at hospitals and PHCs. Other inaugurations were lined up for Ms. Thapa during the course of the day. She inaugurated a candle-making endeavour at Bengthang and Dikling-Pacheykhani, for which expenses amounting to Rs. 75,000 had been provided from the Panchayat fund. In this programme 5 persons from Bengthang and Dikling-Pacheykhani have been taken for training. Another training of cutting and

tailoring was also inaugurated at Pacheykhani by Ms. Thapa where two persons from six GPUs have been offered training. Again all the expenses amounting to Rs. 1.50 lakhs has been provided from the Panchayat fund. Later Ms. Thapa attended a meeting of Bhanu Bhakta Jayanti Celebration Committee at PWD Guest House, Pakyong where a new committee was formed under the chairmanship of Ms. Thapa. It was decided that a follow-up meeting would be held on 25 June where a sub committee will be formed to monitor overall functioning of the celebration.

# Kazi terms burning of vehicle a "terrorist act"

Contd from pg 1

ticular jeep, which is his Press vehicle, had not been used for the past six months or so and therefore had only about 4-5 litres of petrol in it. "However, the next day, the OC of Sadar Thana, PM Rai, while taking a look at the vehicle happened to put a stick inside the petrol tank and found it to be half full, which is about 20 litres of petrol. This clearly indicates that there was more than just the intention of burning the vehicle on the minds of the culprits," feels Mr. Kazi. Incidentally, the same jeep

had been burnt by vandals in October, 2001. "No one was caught then and I don't believe anyone will be caught now," he says. And that is why he was reluctant to lodge a formal complaint with the police. On the matter of security for him and his family, he says that the political advisor to the Chief Minister, Sanchaman Limbu had been intimidated by the chief minister, Mr. Chamling to see to it that he was provided some security. "But as of now no security has yet been given," he said. On the matter of the provision

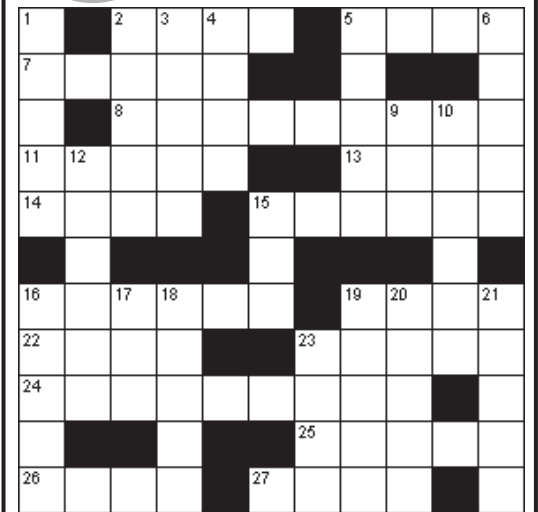
of security to Mr. Kazi, Abhijit Dutta, IG, Special Branch, while speaking to NOW! informed that he had not received any intimation from the authorities on providing security to Mr. Kazi though they had received a copy of Mr. Kazi's application seeking the same.

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- ACROSS**  
2. Sudden assault  
5. Land measure  
7. Fruit  
8. Victor  
11. Summit  
13. Western pact  
14. Flexible tube  
15. Absence of passion  
16. Twinned  
19. Constituent  
22. Sicilian volcano  
23. Light wood
- DOWN**  
1. Era  
2. Speed contests  
3. Got up  
4. Is not  
5. Area used for sports  
6. Male given name  
9. Long-tailed
24. Most tender rodent  
25. Refined iron  
26. Public swimming pool  
27. Celestial body
10. Not these  
12. Revolve  
15. Help  
16. Flower segment  
17. Tavern  
18. Electromagnetic telecommunication  
19. Spaghetti  
20. Change  
21. Article of furniture  
23. Of the highest quality
- no correct entries for last crossword

**VAJRA MOVIE contest**

A correct entry (decided by draw of lots) will win 2 FREE TICKETS to the latest flick playing at VAJRA CINEMA, Digital Surround Sound.  
Last week's answers: Kareena Kapoor / PLAN  
WINNER: Gunjan Sharma, Tibet Road

1. Name the main lead of the movie Lakshya?  
2. Which other actor who starred in the last movie that played at Vajra also features in Lakshya?

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

last week's answers: 1. Amitabh Bachchan 2. Govind Nihalani winner: Y. Chettri

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last week's answer: Paljor Stadium Road. winner: Anand Piriwal

# today in History

20th June

- 1402:** Battle of Angora [Ankara]. Tatars defeat Turkish Army.
- 1756:** 146 British soldiers imprisoned in India - Black Hole of Calcutta - most die
- 1782:** US Congress approves Great Seal of US & the eagle as it's symbol
- 1791:** King Louis XVI caught trying to escape French Revolution
- 1837:** Queen Victoria, at 18, ascends British throne following death of uncle King William IV. Ruled for 63 years ending in 1901
- 1909:** Born, Errol Flynn actor (Captain Blood, Robin Hood, Against All Flags)
- 1924:** Born, WWII hero and actor Audie Murphy
- 1936:** Jesse Owens of the US sets 100 mtr record at 10.2
- 1944:** Congress charters Central Intelligence Agency
- 1947:** Benjamin 'Bugsy' Siegel gangster, shot dead in Beverly Hills California
- 1950:** Born, singer Lionel Richie
- 1953:** Born, Cyndi Lauper, singer [Girls Just Wanna Have Fun]
- 1960:** Federation of Mali (& Senegal) becomes independent of France
- 1963:** Beatles form "Beatles Ltd" to handle their income
- 1967:** Muhammad Ali convicted of refusing induction into armed services
- 1977:** Oil enters Trans-Alaska pipeline exits 38 days later at Valdez
- 1990:** 40,000-50,000 die in a 7.6 richter earthquake in Iran

## CLINTON RECALLS SLEEPING ON COUCH

**NEW YORK:** Bill Clinton says in his new autobiography that his wife looked as if he had punched her in the gut when he finally confessed to his affair with Monica Lewinsky, and he slept on the couch for at least two months after that.

In *My Life*, the former US president writes that the affair with the White House intern revealed "the darkest part of my inner life."

The book, published by Alfred A. Knopf, comes out Tuesday with a first printing of 1.5 million in what is expected to be one of the biggest publishing sensations in years. It is almost certain to outsell his wife Hillary Rodham Clinton's memoirs, published last year.

The former president writes that after he finally confessed to his wife and daughter after months of public denials, she appeared stricken, and the couple started going to counseling one day a week for about a year.

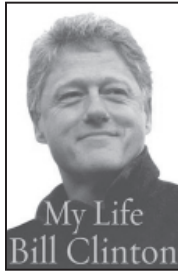
On other topics in the book, Clinton writes that he

met with President-elect George W. Bush and told him that the biggest threat to the nation's security was Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida. According to Clinton, Bush said little in response, and then switched subjects.

Clinton, 57, received a reported \$10 million advance for "My Life," a 957-page book edited by Robert Gottlieb, who has worked with such authors as Nobel laureate Toni Morrison and Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Robert Caro.

Unlike other recent presidential memoirists, Clinton is believed to have written his own book, in longhand.

The former president's autobiography has been at or near the top of Amazon.com's best-seller list for the past month, holding on despite a wave of Ronald Reagan books that became best sellers after the former president's death. Bids for a signed first edition already have topped \$450 on eBay.



## THE FUTURE, NOW!

**ARIES:** Financial position will be good. Popularity will increase. You will be in a position to help others. Domestic happiness will prevail. Family life will be very happy and smooth. Cash flow will be very good. You may receive a promotion and a transfer.

**TAURUS:** Cash flow will be very good. Worries will be over. Those applying for a loan may get the response they expected. Support from your superiors will be there. Litigation may be postponed. You may acquire a new vehicle and purchase new things.

**GEMINI:** You may go for new business activities. Business will be brisk. Family life will be very good. Students will perform well effortlessly. Expenses will be reduced. There may be a change at work, or you may get a new job. You may get a job overseas.

**CANCER:** You will be in a position to pursue further studies. Business will be brisk. Artists and musicians will enjoy great success. Cash flow will be good. Political life will be good.

**LEO:** You may decide to start your own business. Business will thrive. Support from your elder brother will be there. Your friends will stand by you. Litigation will be postponed.

**VIRGO:** You may go for an overseas trip. Business will be brisk. Understanding with your family will be very good. Cash flow will be good. Employees will receive recognition. Your health will improve. There will be an increase in wealth.

**LIBRA:** Political life will be very good. You may purchase a new vehicle. You may get good news from another city or town. A religious trip is indicated. Understanding with your life partner will be good.

**SCORPIO:** You may purchase immovable property. Those in trade or with agencies may see improvement. Expenses are indicated. You may purchase a new vehicle. A change in environment will cheer you up.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Business will be

brisk. Cash flow will be very good. Women may make costly purchases. Professionals may have a misunderstanding with their subordinates. You will see an improvement in your career.

**CAPRICORN:** You may get a job opportunity. Professionals will do well. Students will do well in studies. You will enjoy status, popularity and prosperity. You will take a good decision at home.

**AQUARIUS:** Cash flow will be very good. There may be a religious function at home. Happiness will prevail. Traders will enjoy a good turnover. You will be in a position to release tangled assets. You may get new job opportunities.

**PISCES:** Business will be brisk. Understanding with your life partner will be very good. Expansion in your business and wealth is indicated. There may be additional expenses. Health will be good.

## CHARGES AGAINST WINONA RYDER REDUCED



An image taken from a pool video shows actress Winona Ryder during a progress report hearing on 18 June in Beverly Hills, Calif. The judge in actress Winona Ryder's shoplifting case reduced her felony convictions to misdemeanors Friday and allowed her to finish probation unsupervised.

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## AFTER 8 YEARS, MAN TAKES ELEVATOR TO FREEDOM

**PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad:** A frail 89-year-old Trinidadian man left his apartment for the first time in eight years this week after broken elevators in the government-owned building were finally replaced.

Local newspapers reported Thursday that Randolph Hall had been forced to stay in his eighth-floor apartment for years because he did not have the strength to go up and down so many flights of stairs.

After taking his first ride down the new elevator on

Wednesday, accompanied by Trinidadian Housing Minister Keith Rowley, Hall said he was thankful.

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