

ANOTHER PROMOTION FOR SIKKIM'S FIRST LADY JUDGE CJM MEENAKSHI MADAN RAI IS NOW A DISTRICTS & SESSIONS JUDGE



a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 August: Mrs. Meenakshi Madan Rai, the first lady to be appointed a judge in the Sikkim Courts, has been promoted again. She took charge as the first lady Dis-

trict and Sessions Judge [Special Division II] of Sikkim on 02 August 2004.

With her latest promotion, Mrs. Meenakshi Madan Rai has been encadred in the Superior Judicial Service.

She became Sikkim's first lady

judge on 11 December 1990 when she was appointed as Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate. Before her latest promotion, she was serving as the Chief Judicial Magistrate [East], a post to which she was promoted in April 2000.

Mrs. Meenakshi Rai is the wife of Andrew Rai and daughter of Mrs. and Mr. MM Rasaily, former Auditor General of Home Secretary of Sikkim and daughter-in-law of Mrs. and Mr. Andrew Rai, retired engineer of the CPWD.

Rs. 81.32 crores and 8 projects for Sikkim

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 July: The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region [DONER] has sanctioned 8 projects worth Rs. 81.32 crores for Sikkim under NLCPR.

An IPR Press release, quoting information received from the Resident Commissioner, Sikkim House, New Delhi, informs that the projects include six road projects, one power and one water supply project for Gangtok.

The Ministry has already approved the release of Rs. 28.96 crores as the first installment for implementation of these projects, adds the release.

These projects have been sanctioned from the list of the projects retained by DONER for the year 2003-04. The Ministry had earlier sanctioned six projects amounting to Rs. 59.37 crores in the month of

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Friday, 06 Aug, 2004

Vol. 3 No. 116

Gangtok □ Rs. 3

NOW!

FIRST WITH THE NEWS

DAILY

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School Chalein Hum...



A bulldozer labours away to clear the debris which all but buried the TNA main gate yesterday and blocked the Public School's main entrance for all traffic. [turn to pg 3 for update on the slide]

DRIVER KILLED IN ROAD MISHAP

SINGTAM: The driver of a Gammon India Ltd. vehicle, Bishwa Nath Das, died when the vehicle met with an accident on 03 August. The accident occurred at around 7 pm at Audit II project work site at Lower Samdong while the vehicle [SK-03/1519] was negotiating a tight turn. The driver had sustained severe head injuries and succumbed to his injuries on his way to STNM hospital, Gangtok.

BANKING ON YOUR SALARY?

SUBASH RAI

GANGTOK, 05 August: "Salary via personal account" is the latest topic of discussion in town. Even the Opposition party in the State has raised the issue alleging "it will cause unnecessary inconvenience to the people."

To find out the facts NOW! spoke with officials of leading banks operating in Sikkim. According to them, a proposal was put up recently with the Chief Secretary regarding the issue. According to them most of the government employees, especially III and IV grade lack the saving habit.

"This system is basically framed to inculcate banking as well saving hab-

its among the employees," the officials reiterated.

Further development on the proposal came about when the state government issued a circular directing its employees to open a bank account in their choice of banks. Seeing this, banks like UTI, SBI and the new entrant, the IDBI bank, started sending their representatives to various departments to lure the employees to open an account in their respective banks. It was also discovered, on questioning, that most of the IV and III grade employees don't have any knowledge of what the banking system is actually about.

About the actual process, the officials disclosed that after opening an ac-

count, the employee has to give his account number to his department. The department will then prepare a list and send it to the respective banks. Then the sum of the salaries will be deposited to these banks every month. The employees' salary will be then credited to his personal account which can be withdrawn at any time as per their need. Banks are even offering zero-balance service to such accounts, it is learnt.

It is important to mention here that the Government will first experiment with this scheme with the gazetted officers i.e. from the rank of Under Secretary and above. This system will not be extended to other ranks unless requested so by the employees.

SBI, Asst. General Manager, Gopal Chettri said that even in the 21st century, Sikkim Government employees drew their salary like casual labourers - in cash.

"This proposed system not only helps the employees to generate a banking habit but will also save them from unnecessary expenditures," he feels.

Echoing the same thoughts, Jayanta K. Chatterjee, Asst. Vice-President of UTI Bank, Gangtok, said that to spend money at hand was a psychological phenomenon.

"If an individual has some money in his pocket, temptation leads him towards avoidable expenditure. The system will

turn to pg 4

NOW!

FIRST WITH THE NEWS

Listen To The Experts, Please

Gangtok keeps highlighting its short-sightedness. Yesterday's landslide, which brought down tonnes of debris from the VIP road and dumped it at the gates of the State's only public school is another reminder of not only the fragility of Gangtok's soil, but also the continued refusal of concerned authorities to heed reason. The diversion road which triggered the landslide was thumbed down by geological experts in 1998 and yet in 2004, the cutting was initiated to bulldoze a way through. 1997, when ferocious landslides visited the capital is not that far back in time for people to have forgotten where it struck. A slide at Zero Point, below Raj Bhavan levelled parts of a bungalow there. Another toppled a building over barely 100 metres down the highway. In fact, this second slide was almost on the same line, only further downhill, from the spot where the Gangtok hill sliced off again on Wednesday. Agreed, yesterday's slide might have been triggered more by the broken water supply pipelines which ran under the diversion road [!], the inherent weakness of the soil must have contributed to the fall. If there was indeed a lackadaisical attitude at play here, then the guilty party should consider itself lucky that the slide did not hit at school hours. One shudders to even imagine what would have happened then. Yet, the disruption of water supply to most of Gangtok is still a serious enough offence, if irregular construction practises can be proven. The shifting of blame is also an embarrassing exercise. The buck has to stop somewhere and accountability has to be fixed. No one was hurt in the slide, but many lives were put under threat and if negligence can be established, stringent action should be taken. As for the future, the authorities should start paying the required attention to warnings posted by experts and suggestions made by them. After a building collapse and a landslide, both of which had been predicted and both of which were not adequately followed up, the experts have proven themselves right. They are not just crying wolf, they are actually pointing out a clear and present danger. Please start listening to them and start acting on their advice.

Wronged?

When the issue of women's rights comes up for discussion, and it often does, Bhutanese men have been known to joke that, in Bhutan, it is the men who should be fighting for their rights.

As they say, many a true word is said in jest.

It would be extremely unusual in any parliament these days, anywhere in the world, for members to plead for equality for men. That was what happened in Thimphu this week as the chimis complained that Bhutanese law unfairly favoured women when it came to child support.

On the surface the law does seem to discriminate against men. In a divorce case, the father pays child support of 20 percent of his income for each child, for up to two children, until the child is 18 years old. This happens even if the wife is at fault and the cause of the divorce.

This is not the first time that the Assembly has debated the issue. In fact it is back on the Assembly floor because the chimis tried to change it last year, and failed. They used radical arguments saying that, in paying child support for two children, a man was known to have been maintaining his ex-wife and her unemployed lover in the name of his children.

This year, one chimis feared that a man with two wives could be paying 80 percent of his salary if they both had two children.

But the issue is more complex than it looks. It needs to be understood in our socio-cultural setting, not to speak of what has been described as the "fluidity" of some relationships.

The chimis, mostly men,

may have reason for their indignance, but our lawmakers of the past, also mostly men, had their reasons for enacting such a decision. A reasonable guess would be that men were generally the bread-earners and the concerns of our forefathers in positions of responsibility must have been that a woman could be abandoned to look after the children on her own.

Another reasonable guess would be that it must have actually happened, more than

ELSEWHERE

BHUTAN

once. That is why the eloquent proverb, "A father must be the provider even if he is poor, and the mother the receiver even if she is wealthy."

Legally, there might be anomalies, but this law has been in practice for a long time. A more serious element that probably needs to be thrashed out in today's debate is, to quote the chief justice, the question of "what law ought to be and what law is."

But what most of us agree with is the compassion in our law. For example, it looks after the child when parents do not get along. Today there are new elements in the gender debate. A recent study on the situation of women in Bhutanese society concluded that, while there was no formalised gender bias at home and in the workplace women, being physically weaker and sexually more vulnerable, have less access to educational and employment opportunities.

In Bhutan all persons are equal before law and women have the right to employment

and to equal pay for equal work under the civil service rules. But it is still widely felt among a section of society that "women are not taken so seriously" and that "men make important decisions better".

In some cases of rape and domestic violence, which is under-reported, women maintain silence especially when they are dependent on their husbands. Sexual abuse of girls and young women are a concern. To increase awareness of women's and children's rights the government has taken several steps.

The establishment of National Commission for Women and Children is expected to strengthen coordination and implementation of government commitments under the CEDAW and the Convention on Rights of the Child [CRC]. It would also only be fair to mention that women in Bhutan are generally known to be better off than women in many parts of the world. What we do know, without any research, is that ours is a society that enjoys quite flexible norms in social behaviour. And we are glad that both men and women are free of the restrictions and stigma that sometimes bind people, especially women, to very limited lives. But that is why our National Assembly needs to discuss, regularly, numerous issues related to family relationships.

Bhutanese law deals with a host of very complex issues related to marriage, divorce, property division and inheritance, all stemming from the norms of sexual behaviour. And this debate will go on. Perhaps that is the price we must pay.

- editorial featured in
Kuensel, Bhutan

Though I am not a pessimist, nowadays I can't help thinking that Nepal has lost its fundamental identity—the identity of a peaceful country—at least for many decades to come. Even if the present state of violence and killing eventually comes to an end in some joyous days of the future, the scars of gruesome massacre in the people's mind will not be removed easily, the way top leaders make negotiations. Taking into consideration what is transpiring in this country, where every leader and even the King wants to play his own game of chess, the very thought of Maoist problem coming to an end in the near future can be called nothing more than a farfetched dream.

But if solace is to be found by dwelling in our dream world, let's not hesitate to do that for a moment. Whenever I let my mind imagine that the Maoist problem is being solved, I am always confronted with one major question: Will our villages and cities ever be as safe and as harmonious as it used to be? What makes Bihar such a crime-ridden place and why Nepali cities, only a few miles away from India, are far safer? It's the availability of arms that makes such a vast difference. In Bihar, weapons are as ubiquitous as potatoes. Because of the rise in smuggling of a large

RETURN OF PEACE?

cache of arms by the insurgents, our country's situation is also becoming like that of Bihar. See the present lawlessness in

VIEWPOINT

by KUMUD BHANDARI

our cities— one can shoot another in broad daylight, the bullet whizzes under the nose of a policeman and still the culprits are nowhere to be found. In a country where even firecrackers are banned during festivals, time-bombs explode in every nook and corner. Unless a very

efficient mechanism of disarmament is set up, it is likely that sporadic cases of violence will continue even after the end of the armed struggle as in the case of any other insurgency-hit countries.

Why don't the Maoists, instead of preaching these innocent people the dictums of armed rebellion, bestow them with vocational skills? For self-dependence brings independence. Why don't they, instead of burdening tender shoulders with arms, provide them with copies and pens, as education is the key to liberation and emancipation?

write NOW!

If you feel strongly about something that has been reported in NOW! or have an opinion on some recent development, then share it with a wider audience. While the LETTERS section will carry responses to articles and news carried in NOW!, ACTION MAIL is about complaints and grievances. Wherever possible, NOW! shall also search out a response to the Action Mail. If not, then at least a complaint would have been filed in the public domain. write to: NOW!, Gairi Gaon, Tadong, East Sikkim. Or email: sikkimnow@rediffmail.com

WATER SUPPLY RESTORED, SLUSH ON ITS WAY OUT



a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 August: Officials of the PHE department who were at the site of the landslide which occurred yesterday near TNA assured that they were trying their best to clear the landslide debris by 06 August, but admitted that weather could play foul in their efforts.

Sure enough, a light drizzle kept clearance work slow through most of the day today.

Incidentally, the entrance to TNA has been completely deluged with rubble from the fall that had occurred yesterday and even the shack of the TNA guard had been destroyed.

A bulldozer was hard at work at the site, dumping mud

into the waiting trucks bound for Rongey to dispose the slush.

The Water pipes that were broken yesterday have been temporarily restored and the water supply resumed, much to the relief of Gangtokians, many of whom had to line up behind fire tenders which were pressed into service yesterday to supply water to homes in the capital.

I-DAY SOCCER TOURNAY, PAKYONG

IRBn boys and Namcheybong girls advance

a NOW REPORT

PAKYONG, 05 August: At the Independence Day Football Tournament being held St. Xavier's School playground, Pakyong, today IRB took on Pakyong Football Club 'B' in senior boys division while in the senior girls category Namcheybong Secondary School took on Tashi Namgyal Academy.

In the former match IRB beat Pakyong Football Club 'B' 4 goals to 1 while in the other match Namcheybong Secondary School beat TNA by 4 goals to nil.

Tomorrow Pachey Junior High School take on Namcheybong Secondary School in the Sub-Junior Category while Pakyong Football Club 'A' take on Swastik Football Club in the senior boys category.

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The picture shows the delapidated conditions of the Junior High School of Niya Baram, Lingmoo. The classrooms are in a sorry state and so is the rest of the infrastructure if it can be called so. It has been learnt that the school has no headmaster and the language teacher has to double as the school headmaster.



3 INJURED IN GEYZING ROAD MISHAP

GEYZING: A government gypsy vehicle belonging to the IPR department, west district, met with an accident on 03 August. The vehicle, with number plate SK-02/ 3297, had five occupants including the driver when it met with an accident at 3rd Mile, about 2 kms from Legship Bazaar. Among the occupants was MK Subba, DIO, West. The vehicle was on its way to Geyzing. Victims were forwarded to district hospital. Geyzing and three victims who sustained serious injuries were referred to STNM hospital, Gangtok.

United Bank to open branch in Namchi, has plans for agriculture sector

a NOW REPORT

NAMCHI, 05 July: United Bank of India, a leading Nationalized Bank is opening its first branch in the State of Sikkim at Namchi, South Sikkim shortly.

In order to introduce the bank, SC Debnath, Regional Manager, North Bengal Region, Siliguri held a meeting with local people at Hotel Samdrupse, Namchi on 31 July.

At the meeting, Mr. Debnath disclosed that the Bank has decided to open the branch in accordance to the demand of people of Namchi put to the Gov-

ernor and Chief Minister.

He said that United Bank of India was the first bank in recent times to start its operation in Sikkim in places outside Gangtok.

While appreciating the vision of Mr. Chamling to uplift the rural poor, he said that the main objective was to make banking services available to the rural masses of Sikkim.

Besides retail credit facilities, the main thrust area of the bank shall be to provide timely and hassle-free credit to the agricultural sector in the area, which has great potential in producing ginger, potato, vegetables etc.

He appealed to the business

people to educate the rural folk on the importance of forming self help groups and to avail credit facilities.

He explained that the business community of the area would also benefit if the purchasing power of the rural people improved through micro financing.

Business people, in turn, shall be provided with trade loans on easy terms, Mr. Debnath assured. UBI is also in the process of opening another branch at Gangtok, it is learnt.

Congress takes up Cardomom

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 August: Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee [I] is convinced that the State's cash crop, cardamom, is on the verge of extinction due to communicable diseases which is destroying the crops.

A meeting of the party held here at Congress Bhawan today alleged that the solutions to the problem could have been sought earlier if the State Government had properly utilised the budget for the purpose. The party warned that it would take strong action if the government fails to take proper steps to control the problem.

DOUBLE THEFT

NAMCHI: Two cases of theft have been reported from Namchi on 04 August. In one case the house of Shiva Kumar Rai at Singhithang was burgled of Rs. 6,000 in the afternoon. In the other case, the house of Pem Deki Sherpa at Dabwa, Namchi was burgled during which the thieves made away with Rs. 9,000 and a gold ring of half a tola. Both cases are under investigation.

Banking on your salary?

Contd from pg 1

also reduce the work burden on the cashiers as well as the risk of carrying cash in hand," he added.

According to Mr. Chatterjee, more than 15 private companies and the army in Sikkim are satisfactorily maintaining the system through his bank for many years now. "ATM has made the system even more popular," he claimed.

JS Gyaltzen, General Manager, State Bank of Sikkim while offering much the same opinion maintained that though the system is not beneficial to the banks as it would increase the work load, the government employees would certainly benefit. According to him, in 1995-96 SBS had experimented with the system, but gave up the exercise when government employees could not decide on which banks to open an account with.

Some government employees were also quite excited about the prospect since they realised that the new service would save them the hassle of lining up outside the Accounts section to collect their salaries. "The senior officers get their

salary packets delivered in office, while we waste an entire day outside the Accounts Officer's cabin. Now, the money will go to our accounts and we can withdraw as per our need through the ATMs," said one.

Others were less excited, pointing out that they spent their entire salaries at home. "A bank

account will only add the trouble of going to the bank and withdrawing the money. It is not as if I save anything anyway," explained a grade III employee who had heard of the proposal.

The idea, as mentioned earlier, is still in the proposal stage and how Sikkim takes to banking, only time will tell.

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FIXTURE

DATE	POOL	STAGE	TEAM	VRS.	TEAM	MATCH COMMISSIONER
07.8.04	A	Pre-Qtr.	D'zongri Club	Vrs.	I.R.Bn	Mr.Dhondup Lepcha
08.8.04	B	Qtr. Final	TKKS (Darj.)	Vrs.	Sikkim Police 'A'	Arjun Roka
09.8.04	C	Qtr. Final	SAIL, Durgapur	Vrs.	USSC, Gtk.	Lalit Rai
10.8.04	D	Qtr. Final	Winner of 'A'	Vrs.	Boys Club	Dorjee Tamang
11.8.04	E	Qtr. Final	Sikkim Police 'B'	Vrs.	UKFC, Kusng.	Rinchen Bhutia
12.8.04	F	Semi Final	Winner of 'B'	Vrs.	Winner of 'D'	HK Karki
13.8.04	G	Semi Final	Winner of 'C'	Vrs.	Winner of 'E'	Karma Nidup Bhutia
15.8.04	H	Final	Winner of 'F'	Vrs.	Winner of 'G'	Karma Pintso Bhutia

NB.

1. All the matches will be played at Tashi Namgyal Academy Ground, Gangtok.
2. Kick-off time of all the matches is 3 PM except for the final.
3. The matches will be played as per AIFF rules.

(MENLA ETHENPA)
HONY. SECRETARY

Self-initiative brings electricity to neglected area

KARAN SHAH

KHARKA, 05 August: After years of darkness, it was light finally for the first time. A moment to celebrate. And a celebration there was. A mini festival was organized at Kharka, which falls under Block- 2 of the Kalimpong sub-division and is close to the border of Sikkim and remains one of the most ignored locations. Ironically, it is barely 25 kms away from Kalimpong.

Laden with rough, incomplete roads and village footpaths, the electricity network has given this village a go by. But that was till the members of the 23 houses at Kharka decided to take the initiative and work a way out of the forced darkness.

"We had serious problems and especially the students



90-year-old greets the arrival of electricity to his village

were affected. We used small lanterns, but even that was hampered by the irregular supply of kerosene. By 7 pm everyone was off to bed," says

Arjun Rai, a resident of Kharka.

Though the last electric pole is just 3 kilometers away, no initiative was taken by the concerned authorities to reach

electricity to the area, which lies in the midst of a jungle.

"We didn't approach the electricity board because we knew that it would be useless. However we did approach the Panchayat body; they claimed that they didn't have enough funds," recalls Rai.

Though Rai's house will have lights from now onwards, the help to electrify the whole area came from an unexpected source.

"World Vision, an NGO has been involved in our area in various works, so we thought of approaching them," says Rai. Hence, Rai, along with the members of the 23 houses of Lower Kharka approached the NGO, which responded positively and as a result of which the celebrations of the first day of electricity took place today.

Though the whole process of electrifying the village sounds simple - it took exactly nine months - it was quite a painstaking effort.

"A hundred and fifty of us got together to collect funds and worked day and night. We used to go for work at seven in the morning and after the day's work, a brief discussion would take place for preparation for the next day," said Rai, who led the group.

"The whole project cost us a total of two lakhs five thousand rupees, though the sum of thirty five thousand came from the side of the villagers," said Mr. Jyoti Mukhiya, Area Development Project Manager [World Vision]. It was under him that the project materialized adding. "It feels great to serve others," he added.

Rs. 81.32 crores and 8 projects for Sikkim

Contd from pg 1

March, 2004, bringing the total value of projects sanctioned from the list of 2003-04 to Rs. 140 crores.

The announcement follows the Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling's meeting with the Union Minister for DONER, PR Kyndiah, yesterday. At the meeting, Mr. Chamling thanked the Minister for his Department's continued support and assistance in the implementation of various developmental projects in the state.

He is also reported to have requested Mr. Kyndiah, who is also in charge of tribal affairs, to consider the demand of the State Government to include Gurung, Manger, Sunwar, Thami, Rai, Dewan, Jogi and Bhujel communities in the list of scheduled tribes, as they have all the requisite characteristics of Scheduled Tribes. The Minister, it is learnt, agreed to look into the demand of the State Government sympathetically and on priority basis.

NOW! CAN BE CONTACTED AT THE FOLLOWING PHONE NUMBERS:

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250 PARTICIPANTS AT TT TOURNAMENT

A hectic day of TT and the finalists are decided

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 August: The 1st All Sikkim Student Association Inter School and Open Individual Prize Money Table Tennis Championship started here at the Palzor Indoor Stadium today. The Championship is being organized by All Sikkim Student Association. 200 participants from 19 schools will be taking part in the inter school tournament while 50 participants will take part in the open competition, with some players coming from Siliguri.

The tournament was inaugurated by Thukchuk Lachungpa, MD, Yama Enterprises while CK Basnet, President, Sikkim Table Tennis Association is Guest of Honour.

Malati Ghosh, International player and 2003 Arjuna Awardee was present as a special guest along with ASSA



members, Students and participants were also present. Vikrant Prasad was the chief umpire for the championship.

The final match will be played on 07 August.

Nikita Pradhan, Mokshata Dahal and Nirjala Dahal from Tashi Namgyal Academy and

Jharna Pradhan, Sachina Tamang and Prerna Subba from

Deorali Girls Senior Secondary School reached the finals in the girl's category.

In Boy's category Bijay Subba, Yogen Lama, Basu Sharma and Raju from Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School and Amit Pradhan, Silvanas Sherpa, Tenzing and Ningma Sherpa from Bahai School, Tadong reached the finals. The above mentioned persons will play at the finals of the team championship on 7 August.

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AWARENESS CAMP FOR RURAL WOMEN CONCLUDES AT MICKHOLA

PURAN TAMANG

NAMCHI, 05 July: The 8-day awareness generation project camp for poor and rural women of Lower Mickhola concluded on 02 August at the Panchayat Bhawan, Mickhola. The programme was organised by Drishti, a Namchi based NGO and was sponsored by the Sikkim State Welfare Board, Gangtok.

CT Lepcha, Panchayat member, lower Mickhola was the chief guest of the valedictory function organised on 02 August. The camp covered various

topics like RTDCP dots by Dr. Sarak Rai, medical officer, Namchi hospital, Mrs. Basanti Sharma, PGT Nepali of Namchi Girls Senior Secondary School spoke on women and education, Dr. CS Sharma, Psychiatrist, Namchi hospital informed the gathering on problems arising from alcoholism, women's health was touched upon by Mr. Tarun Rai, DPHNO, Namchi hospital while Dr. Virendra Gurung talked on child health. Mrs. Archana Rai, advocate spoke on women and law and the concept of self help groups was explained by Gopal Rajalim,

APOSRDA.

The chief guest, Mr. Lepcha, in his address said that women of today could play a vital role in changing the society. Appreciating the steps of the government and NGOs in this direction he urged the womenfolk to take advantage of such camps. He also urged them to take serious steps towards child health.

A total of 43 rural women attended the camp. The valedictory function was attended by Mr. Asit Rai, RDA, Mickhola GPU, Mrs. Ongkit Rai, president, village health committee and all the members of Drishti.

Janta Jagriti lessons for Tarku

a NOW REPORT

TARKU, 05 July: A Health Awareness Camp was organized here on 02 August, by Janta Jagriti Sangh an NGO actively involved in different social and environment based activities. Tarku-Tanak Gram Panchayat, South Sikkim, sponsored the Programme. The headmaster, teachers and students of Tarku Secondary School also actively supported the Programme.

After the welcome speech

by BS Tewari, Panchayat President, the programme started. Addressing the people SDDO, RM&D expressed his happiness over the activities of the Health Department, Panchayats and the NGOs in making the people conscious about health and hygiene.

Ex-CMO, South, CB Rai explaining that health is wealth said that the parents should take

more care about the health of the children.

Zilla Panchayat, President, South, Phurmit Lepcha expressed her happiness that women were more conscious about their health nowadays.

At the camp local people received free treatment from specialist doctors and were also distributed free medicines by the local Panchayats.



The 13th Day Anteysthi of late Uma Devi Pradhan, who passed away peacefully on the 29th of July 2004, falls on **Tuesday the 10th of August 2004**. All friends, relatives and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at Atmaniketan, Development Area, Gangtok.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who extended their help and shared our sorrows in our hour of grief and bereavement.

Jagat Bandhu Pradhan (husband), Madhu & Shandeep (daughter and son-in-law), Madan & Mohan (sons) and Family members.
(Ph: 202223)



Paye (Anthesti Kriya)

PAYE (ANTHISTI KRIYA) of our mother Mrs. Bishnu Kumari Gurung wife of late Sriman Gurung (Retired Police Inspector) who expired on 31.7.2004 on the pilgrimage journey to Amar Nath Dham in Kashmir falls on **13.8.2004**. All our relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers at our residence at **Lower Arithang, Gangtok** for peace of the departed soul. We are grateful to all who stood by us in our bereavement.

Madan Gurung, Bhim Gurung, Tara Gurung, Robin Gurung, BM Gurung, IK Gurung and Prem Gurung (6 sons)
Devika Rai, Pushpa (daughter), Kishore Pradhan (son-in-law)
Ph: 226396, 229434, 228174, 202269, 229905



Anthesti Kriya

Anthesti Kriya of Dr. Yanuta Cintury who left for heavenly abode on July 30 2004 falls on **8 August 2004 (Sunday)**. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us to pray for the departed soul at our residence at **Cintury Bhawan, Paradise Lodge, Gangtok.**

Cintury Family
Ph: 202710

Kutshe Shegu

The **49th Day Kutshe Shegu** of Lt. Sonam Tsh. Bhutia who left for his heavenly abode on 24.6.2004 falls on **10.8.2004**. All relatives friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at **Sang Tirkutam Busty, East Sikkim.**

Nagan Lama (borthor), Lakpa Bhutia (daughter-in-law), Thupden/Sonam (sons) -9832032761
Changgay/Sonam (son-in-law)-9832035073, 46557, 36753 (R)



CLASSIFIEDS

GOOD NEWS!!

Dr.C. L. Pradhan, M.D (Neuro Psychiatry) Specialities in treating all types mental illness like *Anxiety, Depression, Schizophrenia, Phobias, Epilepsy, Mental retardation, Dementias (forgetfulness), obsessive compulsive Disorder(OCD), Sexual Problems, Sleep disturbances, addictions, bed wetting, stammering (speech problems) etc. is available at:*

TRESA ENTERPRISES MEDICAL STORE,
Deorali Bazzar, Near Khadi Bhawan at every **Sunday from 10 AM to 4 AM.**
Contact: **9434164798.**

LOST

Name: Pemki Lepcha, Age: 10 yrs., White complexion, approx. 3 ft. tall, D/o. Samten Lepcha of Bagchey, North Sikkim on 2.8.2004 from SNT Colony, Daragaon, Tadong. She was last seen wearing jeans pant with blue jacket and red chappal.



Any information please contact: **Tadong OP or call: 231408, 9434012171, 9434031041**

LOST

Original Marksheet of B.Com Pass course year 1998, belonging to Pradeep Kr. Sharma s/o Shri Bidhya Pd. Sharma has been lost on 20.07.04 on the way between Makha and Singtam. If found contact: **Mr.Promod Kr. Sharma, P.S. to HRD Minister, Ph: 202586 (o) 9832018691 (M).**

SHOP FOR SALE

Location: Metro Point
Approx. area: 12"X13"
Contact: 9434080124

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1 [one] Cook
1 [one] Waiter
1 [one] House-keeping girl.
Interested persons may contact: 94340 12018

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Contact: 9434117299, 9832034929
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Private petrol jeep, long chassis, hard-top, 5-door, year of manufacture - 1988. In good condition. Please contact: 98320-42007.

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A Manager qualified in F&B for a reputed Restaurant/Hotel in Gangtok. Contact: **9434080124**

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Required One Marketing Officer for Sachdeva P.T. College, opening shortly at Career's Counselling Institute, Tibet Road, Gangtok having fluency in English, Computer knowledge, smart, dynamic, graduate. Contact: Mrs. Dey. ph: 226510, 94341-53355

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INTERESTED PARTIES MAY CONTACT: 94341 03320, 231297

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HARUA PARTY, RUNCHE PARTY

The term 'Mad Dog' became part of our lexicon all of last week. The State Congress President may or may not have been called a 'Mad Dog' but he has lately been snapping at everything he sees. He and his party have been raising objections to so many issues that they run the risk of not being taken seriously about anything at all. Most people are either totally indifferent to the causes that the Congress is now espousing or plain dismissive. What is of course amazing is the high level of activity that has suddenly emerged from the Congress camp. Hullo? Elections are over and you were decimated, remember?

What has given Mr. Bhandari and his friends this sudden rush of blood is obviously having their party in power in the centre. The way they see it is, keep holding press conferences, hunger strikes and other forms of protests, which naturally get carried in all the local newspapers. Then send all the cuttings to New Delhi to show that you actually have a presence in the state when the fact is that you don't. This way they get more funds from the centre which begins to think that the state Congress has a struggling chance in the state. Well, I guess we must all do what we can to stay employed.



Now, excuse me, I must attend another Congress press conference. This time they are protesting about... who cares really?

'BUZZ' GAI

Talking about the Congress, I guess what the latest initiative is? An ardent supporter of the party [yes, there are some] is in the process of compiling a book on the various acts of omission and commission of the ruling party here. More specifically it targets the CM and makes all kinds of corruption charges against him. Not surprisingly, it has been named "Corrupt Practices"!

While we are all impatiently waiting for the release which promises delicious gossip, news is that many officers are calling up the writer offering information about various deals/ scams/projects [take your pick]. For the names of these officers, check

the new list of OSDs, soon to be made public!

BANKING WARS

The banking sector in Sikkim is all abuzz these days. With competition from

private banks coming closer to home, the old warhorses are doing everything possible to hold the herd together.

A bank which seems to be troubling the present players is a relatively new entrant to the sport of soliciting accounts in Sikkim. Bankers here are protesting against what they call 'unfair business practices' of the bank.

Apparently, the bank has hired marketing agents on a commission basis to get new accounts for them. This they say completely goes against the banking rules set by the Reserve Bank of India, which stipulates that banks have to hire permanent marketing staff

for the purpose and cannot lease out marketing to an outside agency.

The other rumour that caused quite a flutter on Wednesday was that the bank had bagged the Salary Savings Account of the state government, which meant that all salaries of employees was to be collected through this bank. This has subsequently been refuted and it seems salaries can be collected from any bank where the employee has an account. How our lazy government servants will take to this new initiative remains to be seen. After all there's nothing like getting cash in office every first day of the month.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Reference NIT No. 02/Head Office/R&B/2004-2005 dated 07.07.2004 which was postponed due to unavoidable reasons and notified vide memo No. 08/PWD/R&B/CE/2004-05 dt. 23.07.2004 will now be opened on 17th August 2004, as per the particulars here under:-

Applications to be recieved	-	9th & 10th August 2004
Issue of Challan	-	10th & 11th August 2004
Issue of Tender Documents	-	11th & 12th August 2004
Date of opening of tender	-	17th August 2004 at 1 p.m.

The Sealed Tenders should reach the Office of the Chief Engineer, Roads & Bridges on or before **12.00 noon on 17th August 2004.**

The intending Tenderers/Contractors those who have already applied and obtained the challan shall hold good and need not apply afresh.

Sd/-
(Chewang Zangpo)
Superintending Engineer
Planning & Monitoring
Roads & Bridges Department, Gangtok

R.O. No. 130/IPR/04-05
Dt. 4.8.2004

NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER

Reference NIT No. 01/Head Office/R&B/2004-2005 dated 07.07.2004 which was postponed due to unavoidable reasons and notified vide memo No. 08/PWD/R&B/CE/2004-05 dt. 23.07.2004 will now be opened on 17th August 2004, as per the particulars here under:-

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Planning & Monitoring
Roads & Bridges Department, Gangtok

R.O. No. 130/IPR/04-05
Dt. 4.8.2004

VACANCY

Sikkim Development Foundation, a non Government organization based in Gangtok requires dynamic and committed persons for the following vacancies.

1. Accountant : B.com graduate with at least 2 years experience in maintaining books of accounts ,this is full time appointment at Gangtok office
2. Project Assistant: graduate with work experience in the NGO sector particularly in community engagement. The appointment is initially for three months at Gangtok and can be extended according to project requirement.

Preference will be given to female candidates and local candidates

Apply within 2nd August with biodata by post of in person

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History today in

6th August

- 1181:** Supernova observed by Chinese & Japanese astronomers
- 1809:** Born, Alfred Lord Tennyson poet laureate of England
- 1825:** Bolivia gains independence from Peru
- 1881:** Sir Alexander Fleming cashed in on penicillin (Nobel 1954)
- 1914:** Austria-Hungary declares war against Russia
- 1914:** Serbia declares war against Germany
- 1927:** Andy Warhol pop artist
- 1944:** Deportation of 70,000 Jews from Lodz Poland to Auschwitz begins
- 1945:** Hiroshima Peace Day-atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima by "Enola Gay"
- 1962:** Jamaica gains independence from Britain
- 1965:** Beatles release "Help" album in UK
- 1990:** UN Security Council votes 13-0 [2 abstentions Cuba & Yemen] to place economic sanctions against Iraq.

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ARIES: Support from family members will be there. Medical expenditure is indicated. This will not be a good time to take up a long journey. Worries will be reduced.

TAURUS: You will meet all your goals through your hard work. Your partners will have some good news for you. Financial crisis will blow over. Unnecessary expenses are indicated. There will be happiness at home.

GEMINI: You will have a successful phase. Your superiors will lend you their support. Students will have a tough period. The automobile business will flourish. Those involved in the stock market will benefit. Family life will be harmonious.

CANCER: You will expand your business along different branches. Tensions will be reduced. You will receive good news. Health conditions will be sound. You may purchase immovable property.

LEO: Understanding with your life partner will be good. Life will be peaceful. You may have minor health problems. Worries will be over. Those dealing in electrical and electronic equipment, and home appliances will enjoy easy returns.

VIRGO: Unexpected gains from speculation are indicated. You may travel abroad. Financial position will be good. Politicians will do better. Happiness will prevail.

Departmental apathy runs Darjeeling Government High School aground

BIRENDRA SHANDILYA

DARJEELING: If one has to witness the amount of damage government apathy can do to an institution, one has to just look towards the Darjeeling Government High School.

Utter neglect and the non-filling up of vacancies since 1985, including the post of Head Master, has left one of the premiere institutions of the country in ruins.

"In the old days, it used to be the students wanting to excel in studies and who used to seek admission in this institution and today it is mostly the students trying for a job in the army and police requiring a class 8 pass certificate who enrol here," rues BM Subba, Head Master-in-charge.

This institute has a high profile alumni list including Dr. Asim Dasgupta, West Bengal Minister of Finance and his brother Joydeep Dasgupta-Joint Secretary, Mass Educa-

tion and many a top brass in the administration wing of Sikkim.

"Students used to come from far off places including Nepal and the North East to study here," adds Subba.

In the 60's each class used to boast of 3 sections - "A" section for the Bengalis and B and C Nepali sections. Each section had a strength of more than 160 students.

"The entire school from primary to Higher Secondary has a student strength of around 200 now," informs the acting Head Master.

Incidentally, the Bhutia Boarding School which was started in 1874 and the Government Middle English School founded in 1860 were amalgamated in 1891 to form the High English School. In 1960 it became the first school in Darjeeling to start the higher Secondary Course.

"Of the 45 teachers we used to have in the 1960's we only have 10 now with vacancies in Maths, Physics, History, Geography, Political Science, Economics, Bengali and Physical Education. All lying vacant since 1985. A school that used to have courses in English, Bengali, Nepali, Pali, Tibetan, Sanskrit and Urdu does not have the basic subject teachers any more," complains Subba.

Due to the absence of teachers Class XI and XII had to be closed down from 1998 till 2001. These were revived

with the help of DGHC deputing some teachers on ad hoc basis. The Bengali section has also been closed down.

The State Education Department in charge of the Darjeeling Government High School has turned a deaf ear to the repeated pleas of the Acting Head Master and the teachers. The State Public Works Department which is in charge of repairs finally turned up after 19 years of complaints and reminders and has started the paper work for repairs.

The sprawling hostel building resembles a haunted house. The 12 students from neighbouring areas lodged here sleep on makeshift beds on the floor. The well-equipped Science Block, started in 1964, has been closed down. The Library is just a shadow of its glorious self with broken shelves and torn books.

"There is a lot of theft and pilferage as we have no night guard and maintenance of the sprawling 3 and a half acres of property is impossible as we are understaffed," complained the Acting Head Master.

The old boys of the school have decided to lend a helping hand. An alumni association has just been formed.

"We have a moral obligation towards our school and we will try to reinstate to put it back on its tracks," said Mani Kamal Chettri, Secretary of the Alumni Association.



Admission to B.Sc. (Hons) Nursing Course

B.M. Birla College of Nursing is the first Private Sector College of Nursing in West Bengal since February 2003. This college is committed to high quality patient care achieved through an excellent academic nursing education programme at both graduate and post graduate level. Apart from this academic aim the college facilitates all round development of students. Salient features of the college:

- Highly experienced and qualified faculty
- Centrally located with pleasant environment
- Reputed hospitals for practical training
- Comfortable hostel accommodation
- 100% job placement after graduation
- Enriched and up-to-date library with computer lab

Last date of receiving applications for B.Sc. (Hons) Nursing Course at Birla College of Nursing, Kolkata from the candidates residing outside West Bengal state will be 10.8.2004.

Application form, eligibility criteria and detailed information can be downloaded from the University website <http://www.wbuhs.org> by clicking online submission form in the "Home Page".

The candidate must not fill in the application form online, but the same with Account Payee Demand Draft for Rs. 250/- in favour of West Bengal University of Health Sciences payable at Kolkata and an attested photocopy of the mark sheet of HS/ISC+2 or equivalent examination by speed post to the Registrar, West Bengal University of Health Sciences, DD-36, Sector-1, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700064.

The applications from outside West Bengal will be considered in case the seats are not filled up by the West Bengal candidates.

B.M. Birla College of Nursing (Constituent College of B.M. Birla Heart Research Centre), 1/1, National Library Avenue, Kolkata- 700027. Ph: 033-24567890/24567777, Fax: 033-2456 7000, Website: www.birlacollegeofnursing.org. Affiliated to West Bengal University of Health Sciences.

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