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Monday, 01 Nov, 2004

Vol. 3 No. 181

Gangtok **Rs. 3**

# NOW!

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## THE PACIFIC SHIP MANAGEMENT & SERVICES SCAM

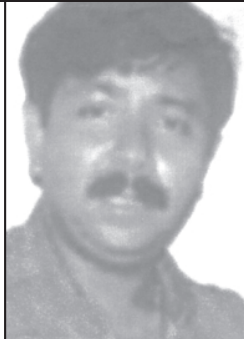
# Sagar's con runs deep

**FROM GANGTOK TO THE DARJ HILLS TO JAMSHEDPUR TO KOLKATA, PACIFIC HAS JOB ASPIRANTS BAYING FOR ITS BLOOD ALL OVER**

**RANJIT SINGH**

Sagar Chakraborty could soon become a household name if you go by the number of people and their families in different parts of the country who are cursing him right now. Not just the prospective candidates to whom he promised jobs abroad but also his business associates seem to have realised, rather belatedly, that it was up the garden path the conman was leading them all the time.

Abandoning since the first week of September Sagar, MD, Pacific Ship Management and Services, has successfully evaded detection – thus far at



Sagar, the Pacific MD who went missing after swindling suspected crores

least. And if we go by the number of people he has deceived with his glib talk, he would be valued at a few crore

rupees at least and could just as well be abroad given the contacts he has. For the record, though, he was last reported to have been in Khandala, near Mumbai around the end of September. Incidentally, it is also learnt that a Kolkata Crime Branch official is in Mumbai at present following this lead.

As things stand, the man everyone is after, Sagar Chakraborty, seems to be quite like an ocean himself – the more you explore the more you realise how little you know. Only, this one is a big mess.

**GANGTOK:** Yes, we know he has swindled money of job aspirants **turn to pg 2**

## TOURIST KILLED IN WEST SIKKIM ROAD MISHAP, TWO SERIOUS

**a NOW REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 31 Oct:** One woman was killed and three passengers injured, two of them suffering serious injuries, in an accident that occurred on 30 October in the West district. All were tourists from West Bengal returning after a holiday in West Sikkim.

Speaking to NOW! Pravin Gurung, SP West informed that the accident took place at around 9.15 am in the morning on the road between Reshi and Kaijalai, 2 kms from Reshi.

### OVER-SPEEDING SUSPECTED

The Tata Spacio [SK-04-1812], travelling from Pelling to New Jalpaiguri with eleven people on board including the driver, went off the road and plunged 300 ft below.

According to preliminary investigations conducted so far, the cause of the accident is suspected to be over speeding.

Jaya Pal, a 49-year-old woman from Kolkata died on the spot while her husband is admitted at STNM hospital with simple injuries. Rakhi

Rajak, 20, also from Kolkata is critically injured and Sanjay Khan, 40, from Kolkata has suffered grievous injuries along with a fractured leg.

All the injured passengers were evacuated from the accident site and taken to Jorethang hospital from where they were brought to STNM while the dead body of Jaya Pal has been sent to Namchi Hospital.

Family members of all the injured passengers have been contacted, informs Mr. Gurung.

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# NOW!

FIRST WITH THE NEWS

## Inviting Cons

People can be fooled easily. All it takes is some smooth-talking, a lot of promise-making and some dream-selling. Someone who can pull off such a charade convincingly is left with an open field to con. It happens all over the world, with all kinds of people. Only recently, a person in Africa convinced people he had enough voodoo powers to make money multiply and fall from the sky. Perhaps that is why we still know Africa as the Dark Continent. But what name do we give to Sikkim, where slightly different, but much larger scams were played out on the people? We had a social-worker in Jorethang promising [and delivering till his arrest], interest on donations! As bewildering as the concept may sound now when we have the benefit of hindsight, this person managed to find many investors to his scheme. Then we had the dream-merchants with a bombastic name as Pacific Ship Management & Services who pawned everything from jobs aboard cruise liners to employment in resorts in exotic Seychelles. All they did was advertise widely, share an office space and appoint some counsellors to convince their backers here that they were "bona fide" company and dupe eager youngsters of lakhs of rupees. They spun similar webs in Kalimpong, Darjeeling, Kurseong, Siliguri, Kolkata and Jamshedpur. Before the entire picture is clear, there will probably be more places that fall in the Pacific Scam footprint.

But with jobs scarce and aspirations high, con-men will always flourish. But can't something be done to make the people safer [the locals, that is, not the scamsters]?

Here the police and the policy-makers will have to play a larger role. To begin with, it should be mandatory for every company recruiting people from Sikkim to get their credentials verified by the cops. This does not take much time. Before anyone places an advertisement for interviews for jobs outside Sikkim, they should be made to submit the relevant documents with the Sikkim Police so that at least preliminary verifications on the company and its people can be made. The same should apply to all organisations promising admissions in colleges outside Sikkim. It would also be preferred if a local company is always used as liaison for companies from outside Sikkim. If the parent company goes underground, at least there will be some local contacts to provide the threads to the con-men when the scheme becomes a scam. These might sound awkward regulations, but are required when it is not just local revenue, but also the futures and very lives of local youngsters that we are trusting into the hands of people we have never heard of earlier. While the cops can always do this on their own, the regulation would work best if the policy-makers actually framed a rule which mandates such policing. Of course, cons will still happen, but at least we would have tried our best to avoid them. Right now, we are open from all sides for a con-attack.

## Gold in State tourney takes 20 to national Taekwondo meet



### a NOW REPORT

**GANGTOK, 31 Oct:** 20 players [pic above] have been selected to represent Sikkim at the National 20th Female Junior and Sub Junior and the 22nd Male Junior and Sub-Junior and Male and Female MUYE Taekwondo Championship 2004 to be held on 4-6 November at Karnail Singh Stadium,

Pahargang New Delhi.

The team comprises of all gold medalists at the 1st Junior and Sub-Junior State Taekwondo Championship 2004 organised by the State Taekwondo Association held on 30 October at Paljor Stadium Indoor Gym. The finals had Lok Sabha MP, Nakul Das Rai as the chief guest.

Rapden Tshering Lepcha of

turn to pg 6

# Sagar's con runs deep

Contd from pg 1

ants here, big time promising them jobs abroad in the Seychelles etc. The Crime Branch has registered a case under sections 420 and 34 IPC against him. We also know that he has not paid the rent for the office space nor cleared his telephone bills.

Supriyo Bhattacharya of Kolkata, who worked in the Gangtok office claims he was not paid his salary for the last five months. He worked for Pacific Ship Management and Services for about 6 months.

"I first met Sagar in Kolkata through a mutual friend, Debojit Biswas. And I last met him in mid-June here in Kolkata," says Supriyo who has left Gangtok for good and is currently in Kolkata.

Also working in the Gangtok office was one Dhawal Parekh, a resident of Jamshedpur.

**SILIGURI:** Here is Sealink Tours & Overseas Consultancy owned by one Mr. Mukhia. Sagar duped nine candidates here through this company. Also in Siliguri is the residence of advocate Pradeep Sarkar, villain number two of the con drama as is alleged.

"He convinced us that Sagar was a nice person and that Pacific was a genuine company," laments Mrs. Mukhia. The advocate even presented them some documents to convince them. Mr. Mukhia swallowed the bait and started recruiting youngsters from Siliguri as well as Darjeeling and Sonada for Sagar and Pacific.

Sealink was functioning in Siliguri long before Pacific came into the picture, it seems, and was also a recruiting agency.

"We had absolutely no problems till all this happened; it is all because of Pradeep who introduced my husband to Sagar. The candidates are pestering us and my husband is very disturbed," says Mrs. Mukhia.

She also maintains that her husband is innocent and has no hand in the scam. Mr. Mukhia, as informed by his wife is also currently in Mumbai on the trail of the con artist.

Incidentally, the candidates recruited by Sealink paid Rs. 1.40 lakhs for the "jobs" on offer. And interestingly, advocate Pradeep Sarkar is also untraceable. "We have not been able to locate him," says a harassed Mrs. Mukhia.

**JAMSHEDPUR:** is where Dhawal Parekh hails from. He, too, has "disappeared". He remains unreachable, at least

telephonically from Gangtok.

Jamshedpur is also where Mr. Parekh has his own "career and counselling" agency by the name of DP Enterprises. This company, too, was functioning long before his tryst with Pacific or Sagar. The intriguing point is that he left Jamshedpur and his company to work for Pacific in their Gangtok office.

"He probably came to recruit people for his company as well which was providing staff for call centres etc," feels Supriyo. Though he did not manage to recruit anyone from here for DP Enterprises, his Jamshedpur office did manage to recruit some people for Pacific. This seems to have been the deal they had - you recruit for me; I do the same for you. And Mr. Parekh, too has taken a dive into the messy Pacific ocean with the Jamshedpur candidates crying for his blood. From what is learnt, DP Enterprises on its own seems to be a genuine company.

**ASANSOL:** this is probably where it all started. Pacific Shipping had an office in Asansol and probably recruited - and fooled - persons from here as well. Here Sagar had Mrinal and Mridul Ghatak working as sub-agents who even went down to Kolkata at times to collect money from candidates there.

**KOLKATA:** Here supposedly was the Pacific head office [which had to relocate three times], the family and home of Sagar [who also had to relocate] and his bank accounts. Here is also Jyoti International and other gullible characters. Jyoti International is a sort of 'parent' company which authorised Pacific to operate and supply them manpower. Sagar Chakraborty managed to convince JI that this was a genuine recruiting company, the same way he convinced many others. JI then permitted Pacific to operate as 'agents' for their company.

Last heard, JI, located somewhere on Theatre Road, Kolkata, was pretty peeved at Sagar for having stained their good reputation and was planning to take him to court.

Then there are more boys and girls who fell into the trap, rather obediently. They were the first batch recruited by Pacific in May, 2003, which started out with an office at a Kolkata marketing complex called Dakshinapan. These youth who had coughed up around a lakh of rupees for the dream-jobs had even been sent to Chennai for training. Incidentally, they had applied for

jobs on international cruise liners. On their return and after several excuses made by Sagar, they were told that openings in cruise liners had all been exhausted.

That was that, but not quite.

They eventually had the sense to file an FIR at the Lake Police Station in Kolkata, which is a stone's throw from Dakshinapan. But Sagar had disappeared from the jurisdiction by then. From Dakshinapan, Pacific shifted its office to the southern limits of the city at Mahamayatala which soon shut down. The reason given was that Sagar Chakraborty had been kidnapped from the EM Bypass area! According to people to whom Sagar talked after he had "rescued" himself, he had been kidnapped and taken to the Sunderbans from where he, as the story goes, managed to give his captors the slip and returned to the city. Sunderbans, incidentally, is a long way from Kolkata and is probably the most remote, unreachable and inhospitable regions of the state.

The kidnapping story is believed to have been concocted by Sagar to keep his growing list of "gullible victims" from becoming his predators. This was around January this year.

On his reappearance the office functioned from a place at Ricky Road, Kolkata. Of course, the office is shut for good now. Interestingly, Sagar gave the impression that he had branches all over the country - and there is reason to believe that he actually did. He was also planning to open a branch at Lucknow.

The most pressing question, those interested, would probably have is where did all the acquired money go. Several places, actually and interestingly. Only a small amount went to the bank account of Pacific which had an account with the UTI bank in Kolkata. This itself puts up a question-mark as Pacific was reportedly not a registered company. A large chunk of the loot was put in the bank account of Mrs. Nitu Singh, wife of Sagar Chakraborty. Some of the cash was put in the account of Sanat Chakraborty, brother of the main character in his ICICI bank account. And another portion of the swag was put into the account of one Suman Ghosh.

Who is Suman Ghosh?

He is actually an old character in the tale and a business partner of Sagar's and the money delivered to his account is probably his 'salary'. Suman looks after the Dubai sector of the business. This is probably

turn to pg 3



# JUTE MAKES ANOTHER ATTEMPT AT WINNING OVER GANGTOKIANS

a NOW REPORT

**GANGTOK, 31 Oct:** The 5-day long Jute Fair 2004 was inaugurated by the District Magistrate, East, K Srinivas on Saturday at Hotel Rendezvous here. Jute Manufactures Development Council, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India are organizing the fair in association with Sikkim Consultancy Centre, a division of West Bengal Consultancy Organization Ltd.

Present for the inaugural day were HL Saha, vice-president, SICON, Mr. Basu, Manager, SISCO, Jayanta Chatterji, Manager, UTI, PT Srinath, Market Promotion Officer, JMDC.

There are 21 stalls in the fair exhibiting all kinds of jute products, handicraft, jute ornaments, bags, novelty and gift items, footwear, mats, carpets and wall hangings. Prices range from Rs. 20 to Rs. 450. The participants are from all parts of the country with stalls also taken by three local entrepreneurs.



above: DM [East], K. Srinivas, at one of the stalls at the ongoing jute fair at Hotel Rendezvous.

right: An innovative promotional bid to promote the virtues of jute - a ventriloquist at the jute fair with his doll and an audience at the Jute Fair.

"This is the sixth time we are organizing this jute fair in Gangtok. The main objective behind organizing these fairs is to basically promote jute-based diversified products and to promote self-employment of local educated unemployed youth.



Another reason is to allow the jute industry in the State to grow and in turn make Sikkim an eco-friendly State by substituting and replacing plastic and other eco hazardous materials," stated NC Baral, Officer in Charge, Sikkim Consultancy Centre.

The chief guest, Mr. Srinivas, in his address stated that holding of the jute fair was a positive step since it was an environmentally friendly product.

"The Chief Minister has declared to make Sikkim the greenest state and this objective can be reached only if the Sikkimese people totally discard bio-hazardous materials like plastics. The most effective and efficient substitute for these bio-hazardous materials is jute. It is durable, cost effective and does not pose a threat to nature and environment. Thus such products should definitely be promoted in the state," he said.

## Gangtok municipal polls before Feb-end

a NOW REPORT

**GANGTOK, 31 Oct:** Gangtok Municipal Corporation elections will be held by the end of February, informs a press release issued by the ruling Sikkim Democratic Front.

The release informs that DD Bhutia, Minister, Urban Development and Housing Department in a meeting held on 30 October directed his officials to complete the election process by the end of February.

Mr. Bhutia has also informed that between Ranipool and Gangtok, 21 wards would be set up which would be separated by poles.

The election will be conducted under the supervision of the State Election Commission and procedure and discussions on reservation of seats for various communities have already been completed.

## Sagar's con runs deep

Contd from pg 2

the only place the company was "really" sending people for work. Suman, as is informed, spends more months in Dubai than in India. And interestingly, both Suman and Sagar belong to the same locality in Kolkata called Kalibazaar which lies at the southern tip of the city.

Well, they don't live there any more. According to a local of the area Sagar's family was pressurised by the local community to vacate the area and find a new home. This occurred early October. The residents probably got wise to the ugly duckling among them.

As for those who had put in money for work, most have returned home to look for alternative employment. Among those from Gangtok, two girls have

preferred to stay back in Kolkata. Fortunately, for them they are currently employed with Park Hotel, Kolkata, a five-star hotel. Mrs. Mukhia is awaiting her husband's return from Mumbai. Mr. Mukhia seems all set to strangle Sagar on first sight. With the kind of money he has "earned" he and his wife could be in China or Mars. They started off from Khandala as it is.

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## South District team downs title holders 6-2 to enter semis

PURAN TAMANG

**NAMCHI, 31 Oct:** SDFA became the first team at the Governor's Gold Cup to reach the semi final stage with a convincing 6-2 win over last year's champions, TFA.

The first quarter final match of the 26th All India Governors Gold Cup 2004 was played today, 31 October between SDFA, Namchi and TATA Football Academy. SDFA had entered the quarter final with 3-0 victory over Jamshedpur SA while TFA, being the title-holders, went directly into the quarter finals.

The first goal of the game was scored by Mayel Lepcha of SDFA at 10th minute of the first half and 2 minutes later Bikash Jairu of SDFA scored the second goal. As SDFA led by 2-0, Dawa Lepcha of SDFA crossed the ball from

right wing in the 16th minute and Rina Anto of TFA while trying to save that ball put in a suicide goal instead. The 23rd minute saw TFA win a free kick which KT Paite converted. The score at the end of first half read 3-1.

The 51st minute of the match saw Sanju Pradhan of SDFA scoring a goal which took the score to 4-1 in SDFA's favour. Five minutes later, Mayel Lepcha scored his second goal which took the score to 5-1.

The desperate attempts of TFA finally paid off and in the 64th minute when Gautam Kajjur scored the second goal for his team. The lead extended ten minutes later when Engpong Subba scored the final goal for his team. The match ended with the final score reading 6 goals to 2 in SDFA's favour which came at

the cost of two yellow cards shown to its players.

SDFA will play with the winner of the match between Sikkim Police XI and Nepal XI which is to be played on Monday.

The first match of the day was played between Oil India, Assam and George Telegraph, Kolkata. The match ended with no score and match was extended to over time. Bijav Mushary of Oil India, Assam scored the only goal of the match and with this victory of 1-0, Oil India enter the quarter finals.

Sports and Youth Affairs Minister, PS Tamang was the chief guest today. He handed a cash award to the manager, Samten Bhutia of SDFA.

The match of 30 October was played between Assam SEB and Tibetan National FA which was won by the former 3-0.

## Supplies maintained despite logistical problems, claims govt

**GANGTOK, 31 Oct:** The State Government has strongly condemned allegations made by the Congress regarding the shortfall of essential commodities during Dasain. The Department of Food & Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs and State Trading Corporation of Sikkim have reacted sharply against the allegations.

The Food & Civil Supplies Department has clarified that the Department had already deposited money for 2,000 quintals of Sugar with FCI in September 2004. However, fresh stock of levy sugar was not made available by FCI till the first week of October 2004. Amidst time constraints and road blockages in neighboring

States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, Department requested Government of India to allow permission to procure sugar directly from the Mills for Public Distribution. Accordingly 2840 quintals of sugar was made available for distribution to the Public before Dasain.

Regarding Kerosene, the GoI has drastically reduced its quota under Public Distribution

System. However, the monthly allocation was lifted on time and distribution as per the norms was made.

STCS, has in turn stated that in Oct 2004, it procured and supplied nearly 8,000 cylinders more cylinders than the average for the previous two months. Hence, to allege that there was a shortage of LPG is baseless.

[IPR]

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For further details please contact:

**Mr. Bejoy Gurung**  
**9434169605**

**Mr. Dibya Raj Gurung**  
**9434169609**

### NOTICE

It is for the general information of the public that the **Household Survey** in connection with the proposed **Gangtok Municipal Corporation** was conducted **w.e.f. 27.9.2004 to 15.10.2004**. The public who have missed or were left out during the survey is requested to contact the **GMC Cell** of the UD & HD, Govt. of Sikkim with their voters I.D. Card, for inclusion of their names in the enumeration.

Sd/-  
**Special Secretary,**  
**UD & HD, Govt. of Sikkim**



# I AM CLOSE TO DARJEELING'S PEOPLE, NOT ITS POLITICS, SAYS CHAMLING

a NOW REPORT

**DARJEELING, 31 Oct:** The Sikkim Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling, reiterated that though he was very close to the people of Darjeeling, he preferred to stay far away from the Darjeeling politics.

Mr. Chamling was in Darjeeling on Saturday to attend a felicitation ceremony organised in his honour by the Gorkha Limbu-Subba Scheduled Tribe Welfare Organisation [GLSSTWO].

"I was not very eager to come at this time with the DGHC elections knocking on the door. All my visits to Darjeeling are given a political colour, though they have all been absolutely social visits, with the sole motive to interact with the people of Darjeeling," Mr. Chamling said at the function.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Chamling steered clear of political references and instead spoke on national and developmental ideologies.

"We, as Gorkhas, should be proud to be Indians and always remain loyal to the Government, whether State or Central," he said, while adding that always complaining of not getting proper recognition and exposure at the national level, was a sign of weakness.

"We should rather strive to develop ourselves to become one of the leading races in India so that recognition comes automatically," he stressed.

## DARJ LIMBUS FELICITATE CM FOR HIS ROLE IN SECURING ST STATUS FOR THEM



The Chief Minister being felicitated by the Gorkha Limbu-Subba Scheduled Tribe Welfare Organisation at Darjeeling on Saturday

"We have to change with times. Just being known as a brave race will not help us achieve much in this century. We should rather eye the service sector and make tourism and natural resources our main forte," he added.

Earlier, DM Chemzong, the GLSSTWO president, revealed that Mr. Chamling had played a pivotal role in getting the Limbus enlisted in the Scheduled Tribes list.

Mr. Chamling, in turn, refused to claim all credit and said, "The Limbu and the Tamang communities should get the most credit along with the ancestors of these two tribes who have religiously guarded and preserved the language,

culture and heritage of these two tribes."

The Tamang and Limbus were included in the scheduled tribes list in 2001.

Mr. Chamling went on to state that both these communities should not rest satisfied with being declared as tribals.

"It is their duty to create awareness and find out what facilities and amenities come along

with this special status and then benefit from them," he stressed.

The programme also witnessed the felicitation of the stalwarts of the Limbu community in different fields along with meritorious Limbu students. Mr. Chamling presented a cheque of Rs. 2 lakhs to the GLSSTWO and Rs. 3,000 each to the six meritorious students. A show was also organized for the visiting dignitaries to showcase the rich tradition and culture of the Limbus.

### Anthyesthi Kriya

The Anthyesthi Kriya of late Madan Kumar Pradhan of Daragaon who left for heavenly abode on 22 October 2004 falls on **3 November 2004**. All friends, relatives and well wishers are requested to join us for offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at **Daragaon, Tadong**. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who extended their help in the hour of our bereavement.



*Mrs. Ongmu [wife],  
Om Kumari [daughter], Neel Kamal Pradhan, Jogendra Pradhan [sons] & Bhupendra Kothari [son-in-law]*

### Anthyesthi Kriya

Anthyesthi Kriya of our beloved father/husband Late SM Pariyar, who left for heavenly abode falls on **3 November 2004**, at our residence, Pariyar Awaas, Deorali School Road, Gangtok.

We thank all our friends, well-wishers and our relatives for their support in time of grief.

*Mrs. G Pariyar [wife]  
Jyotsna & Avalokita [daughters], Jigme Gyatso [son-in law], Sherab Layden & Rapgyal [grandchildren]. And all family members.*

Phone: 9832077335/9832070907/03592-280849



### Anthyesthi Kriya

The 13th Day Anthyesthi Kriya of late Trilochan Dhakal of Sajong Busty, Central Pandam who left for heavenly abode on 22 October 2004 falls on **3 November 2004**. All friends, relatives and well wishers are requested to join us for offering prayers for the departed soul at above mentioned date at place. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who extended their help in the hour of our bereavement.



*Tikaram Dhakal, Nagendra Dhakal, Nirmal Dhakal [sons] & all family members  
Ph: 263909, 9434339226*

### CM announces plans for monthly constituency visits

**GANGTOK, 31 Oct:** The Chief Minister will visit each of the 32 assembly constituencies every month to inspect the progress of developmental works in the area, informs an SDF press release.

At a meeting held at Mintokgang on 29 October, Mr. Chamling is reported to have informed his MLAs that on these visits he would be accompanied by the head of the departments, to enable him to sanction emergency works on the spot.

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White Maruti Car for sale. Original paint. Year 2000 model. Call: **284296**. Mobile: **94341-69190**

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Scooter in good condition available for sale. Interested person may contact: **9434191967**

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Short-body Jeep in excellent condition with up-to-date papers available for sale. Contact: **9832035092/ 9434241601**

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**LAND FOR IMMEDIATE SALE**

Measuring 11 acres situated at Dalapchand, Rongli in East Sikkim. Please contact: Crystal Medical Shop, Daragaon-Tadong. Ph: **9832078425, 232129**

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**Gold in State tourney takes 20 to national Taekwondo meet**

Contd from pg 2

Central Dozang, Gangtok was selected the Best Fighter [Male] while Binney Tamang, also of Central Dozang, was the Best Female Fighter. Sandeep

Gurung of Saleybong, Namchi was adjudged the Best Loser.

The team championship was won by Central Dozang, while Model English School, Sombaria was the runners-up team. The En-

couragement Trophy went to Young Dragon Dozang, Gangtok.

The name of students who will represent Sikkim in the National Taekwondo Championship are: Kumar Tirwa, Bisharam Rai, Amar Gurung, Rapden Tshering Lepcha, Roshan Rai,

Yatan Rai, Rupesh Subba, Sameer Gurung, Birkharaj Pakhring, Prayas Chettri, Tapas Shah, Ugen Gurung, Om Kumar Rampal, Bijeshna Paudali, Sabita Pakhrin, Nima Dolma Sherpa, Binney Tamang, Srijana Gurung, Manshira Pradhan and Sapna Rai.

**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**

WS & Public Health Engineering Department

**S U P P O R T E D B Y****Gangtok Water Supply and Sanitation Project (AusAID Funded)**

Tenzing & Tenzing Building, 31/A National Highway, Gangtok  
Tel: 03592-201057/ 58. Fax: 03592-201056

Ref. No. GWSSP/DK/PQN/01

Date: 26.10.2004

**PRE-QUALIFICATION NOTICE**

Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) intends to improve water supply system of the city of Gangtok under Gangtok-Shillong and South Asia Regional Water Supply and Sanitation Program. **The project is named as GWSSP.**

Large number of demonstration works are identified and it is proposed to take them up under this project.

Sealed pre-qualification documents are invited from approved contractors. Those having offices in Sikkim will be preferred. The pre-qualification document can be obtained from the **Office Manager, GWSSP, Tenzing & Tenzing Building 31/A National Highway, Gangtok**, during working hours. Contractors have to submit a request letter and need to attach copy of latest Income Tax Clearance Certificate, Sales Tax Clearance Certificate and Company's Registration proof to obtain the Pre-Qualification document.

Project details and other deadlines are given here below.

**Name of Work:** Shortening of house connections and improving residual pressure in the Arithang area of Gangtok including laying of pipe lines, installation of pressure reducing valves, construction of distribution boxes, construction of valve chambers and reinstatement of roads etc.

**Sale of pre-qualification document:** 03.11.2004 to 10.11.2004 during 10:30 am to 4:00 pm.

**Last date of submission of pre-qualification document duly filled-in by contractors:** 15.11.2004 at 4:00 pm

The sealed pre-qualification document should reach the office of GWSSP on/or before the date and time specified above. The GWSSP shall not be responsible for any delay in receipt of the document submitted by the contractor by post. No document shall be entertained which are received after last date and time mentioned above.

A committee constituted by GWSSP shall examine the pre-qualification documents, and the short-listed individuals/ firms shall be informed by post. Any queries in this context will not be entertained. Any effort by an individual or firm to influence the processing of short-listing may result in rejection of the contractor.

Instructions given in the Pre-qualification document should be read carefully before filling-in up the document. Firms/contractors should furnish all the details asked in the document. Responses like "shall be furnished later" will be considered as non-responsive and may lead to rejection of the contractor.

The GWSSP reserves the right to accept or reject any, partial or all the pre-qualification applications without assigning any reason thereof.

It is informed that only the short-listed contractors will be required to submit the offer. The successful bidder shall have to enter in to an agreement with PHED to execute the work.

Office Manager  
GWSSP  
Gangtok  
East Sikkim



# SPORTS JOINS THE CALENDAR OF FESTIVALS IN SIKKIM

**SAGAR CHETTRI**

**GANGTOK, 31 Oct:** The State Level Sports Festival 2004 started in a grand manner here at West Point School Ground. Organized by the Sports & Youth Affairs Department, it's Minister PS Tamang, declared the Sports Festival open on Saturday. Around 540 sportspersons are taking part in the tournament.

SK Gautam, Special Secretary, Sports & Youth Affairs, in his welcome speech, said that the Sports Fest was an annual effort of the Department to find and train young sports-persons.

Lobzang Bhutia, Secretary

of the Department, in his address said that organizing such tournaments was important to wean the youngsters away from the negative influences so rampant nowadays.

The Minister in his address said that the main aim for holding such events was to provide exposure to students from rural areas and to encourage them in their respective games so that they could take up sports professionally.

He added that the Chief Minister harboured the dream to make Sikkim produce more sport-stars like Baichung Bhutia, Rupen Pradhan, and Tarundeep Rai. Such tourneys could help realise this dream, he said.



The opening ceremony of the State Level Sports Festival 2004

Although the annual event, the sports meet was made special this year with an elaborate and colourful opening ceremony and the inclusion of more events.

## SNAP-SHOTS FROM THE SPORTS FESTIVAL



## SOCCER

**GANGTOK:** On 30 October, the first quarter final match of State Level U-19 Boys football was played between South District and North District.

Both the teams were evenly matched and the first half finished with the score reading 0-0. In the second half, South surged ahead with two goals scored by Bikash Gurung and Lakpa Kedar Sherpa, winning the match 2-0.

In the second quarter-final match between East and West Districts, East District won the match by 2 goals to 1.

On 31 October, the first match of State Level U-14 Boys was played between North and South Districts. South easily won the match 4 goals to nil to reach the finals.

In the match between East and West Districts, the latter won the match to reach the finals.

The final match will be played on 03 November between South and West.

## At the events...

On the same day, South played against West District in the U-19 Girls category at West Point School Ground. West District won by single goal scored by Laxmi Maya Subba to reach the finals.

The second match played between North and East was won by East District 2 goals to nil. The two goals were scored by Sangita Subba and Ranjita Subba.

## VOLLEYBALL

The State Level U-19 Girls Volleyball tournament was held at Tathangchen School Ground.

On 30 October, South took on East district, which won 25-18, 25-15 and 25-12.

In the second match, North District played against West in which West District won 25-24, 25-21 and 15-14.

On 31 October, the semi final matches were played, in the first match played between West and South District, South

District won 25-22, 25-19 and 25-08 to reach the final.

In the second semis, East played North District and won the match 25-09, 25-19 and 25-19.

On Monday, the final match will be played between South and East Districts at West Point School Ground.

## TABLE-TENNIS

In the State Level U-14 Boys and Girls Table Tennis Championship, East District won the team championships in both categories. The TT Tournament, played at the White Hall Table Tennis complex, saw the participation of players from all the four districts.

The West District stood as runners up with North District coming third in the Boys category.

In girls category West District again was the runner up team with South District team coming third.

## ...and the controversy over age

**SUBASH RAI**

**GANGTOK, 31 Oct:** Allegations and counter-allegations marred the second semi-final match of U-14 football between East and West District at the State-Level Sports Festival 2004 organized by Sport and Youth Affairs Department here at West Point School Ground.

Managers of both the teams accused each other of fielding over-age players. The organizing committee in turn barred some players of both teams from playing today's match. All the players however had documents showing that they were within the prescribed age limit.

Altercations between the team managers and the officials continued even while the match was on. It was then decided that a medical examination would be

conducted on all players of teams which make it to the finals scheduled for 02 November.

Speaking to NOW!, an official of Sports Department informed that the players will be taken to STNM Hospital for a thorough medical examination to verify their age.

On the other hand, DR Chettri, team manager, West District, whose team received the maximum complaints of fielding over-age players, expressed his dismay over the organizer's decision to hold medical examinations.

"I will accept their decision but they should have done it earlier as my players are now going to play their final match," he said. Out of eighteen boys under Mr. Chettri, five were debarred from playing today. Even from the balance 13 play-

ers, complaints have been made against four players.

Mr. Chettri said that his team has fulfilled all the formalities of documentation required by the Department adding, "After disqualification even if my players are reduced to less than 11 players, my team will still play the final."

Mr. Chettri further requested the officials to hold proper procedures to check the age of the players. He was also of the opinion that the department should hold all such tests at the time of selection, which takes place at the district itself.

Organizing committee members believe that if managers willingly allow older players to take part in this manner, they were depriving the younger players of the opportunity being provided.

# History

today in  
01st November

**79:** Pompei buried by Mt Vesuvius  
**1210:** King John of England begins imprisoning Jews  
**1512:** Michelangelo's paintings on ceiling of Sistine Chapel, first exhibited  
**1604:** William Shakespeare's tragedy "Othello" first presented  
**1611:** Shakespeare's romantic comedy "The Tempest" first presented  
**1755:** Lisbon earthquake kills more than 50,000  
**1798:** Born, Sir Benjamin Lee Baronet Guinness, Irish brewer/Dublin mayor  
**1800:** First US President begins to live in the White House [John Adams]  
**1894:** Vaccine for diphtheria announced by Dr Roux of Paris  
**1922:** Ottoman Empire abolished  
**1936:** Mussolini describes alliance between Italy & Germany as an "axis"  
**1938:** Seabiscuit beats War Admiral in a match race at Pimlico  
**1939:** 1st animal conceived by artificial insemination (rabbit) displayed  
**1939:** 1st jet plane, Heinkel He 178, demonstrated to German Air Ministry  
**1952:** Fusion occurred for the 1st time on Earth  
**1954:** Algeria begins rebellion against French rule  
**1956:** Madhya Pradesh formed and states of Punjab, Patiala & PEPSU merge as Punjab protection  
**1966:** Haryana created from Punjab  
**1993:** European Union comes into existence

**ARIES:** Financial strain will be brought under control. Understanding with your life partner will be good. Happiness will prevail. Cash flow will be very good. Tensions will be reduced. You will receive encouraging communication. Business will be brisk. You will be happy.  
**TAURUS:** Happiness will prevail. Tension will be reduced. Cash flow will be very good. You will release tangled assets. You will maintain a balanced perspective on things. You will receive encouraging communication.  
**GEMINI:** Domestic happiness will prevail. Financial crisis will be better controlled. You will gain popularity. Social status will improve. Health will be good. You will be free of all tension.  
**CANCER:** You will be successful in all you do. Financial status will be sound. You will be in a position to release tangled assets. You may acquire ancestral property. Prosperity is indicated. Worries will be reduced. Understanding with your life partner will be very good. You may have a grandchild in the family.  
**LEO:** You may go on a long trip. Financial position will be sound.

## Promoting computer literacy through the stage

a NOW REPORT

**GANGTOK, 31 Oct:** Promotional campaigns are de rigueur these days, even though some may not seem to be at all connected to the product or service that are being promoted. To promote Information Technology, Agni Interlink Marketing India Pvt. Ltd organized the Agni Star Talent Hunt at the Sikkim Government College auditorium here on Sunday.

Part of a mega IT promotion, the Music & Dance Recognition Seminar was participated in by 20 female and 10 male candidates from all the four districts of the state.

Minister, HRD, GM Gurung was the chief guest on the occasion.

"The main idea behind holding these song and dance talent competitions is based on the American concept of total computer literacy through online education," says Abhay Pathak, Senior Associate, AIMIPL, adding, "this also gives the participants a platform to perform at a big level and in turn generates awareness about computer literacy to the



Participants chat up in the green room awaiting their turn on stage

parents and the participants. During the talent hunt small breaks are taken to inform all about computer literacy."

Categories for competition were solo dance, duet dance, Under 12 solo song and open solo song. There were 4 male and 4 female candidates participating in the song competition.

The candidates had to go through two auditions at Hotel Mount Simvo before entering the final round today. Cash prizes amounting to Rs. 4,000

were also awarded to the winning participants.

"This opportunity informs the candidates and the people in general about the benefits of computer literacy and how it can be used in our daily lives," stated Nishan Basta, Senior Associate and also the person conducting the technical part of the computer literacy sessions.

There are about 600 associates all over the State undergoing computer literacy programmes through AIMIPL at present and the company expects to increase the number by holding many such programmes in the future.

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**VIRGO:** You may face a financial crisis. You may acquire immovable property. Domestic happiness is indicated. You may get promoted. Happiness will prevail. Those in trade or with agencies may find improvement.  
**LIBRA:** You will find positive changes in your life. You may go on a long trip. You may face a setback in health. Business will be brisk. You may take up a new agency business. A change of environment will cheer you up.  
**SCORPIO:** You will be very active. You may get an opportunity abroad. You will enjoy good health. Understanding with your life partner will be good. Litigation will be postponed. Position and prosperity are indicated.  
**SAGITTARIUS:** You may take a new, important decision in family matters. Financial crisis is likely.

Litigation will be postponed. Expenses due to children are indicated. Encouraging communication will be received. Understanding with your spouse and business partner will be very good.  
**CAPRICORN:** You will be successful in all you take up. Litigation will be postponed. Export businesses will do well. Cash flow will be very good. Expenses will be reduced. Worries will go diminish. You will continue to face hostility through the day.  
**AQUARIUS:** Financial crisis will be reduced. Traders will do better. Understanding with your spouse and business partner will be very good. Those appearing for competitive examinations will enjoy easy success.  
**PISCES:** You may get a good opportunity to demonstrate your capability. You will do well in competition. Attentive students will do well. Financial position will be very good. You may initiate a new venture.

## INVITATION

Inauguration of Lashithang Gumpa will be held on 4 November 2004. Pathing Rinpoche will also confer "WANG" on the auspicious occasion of Lhabab Duechen celebration. All devotees are requested to attend the prayer function. Organizing Committee, Lashithang, Pakyong

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