

NOW!

First With The News

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CONTACT ALONG WITH GUARDIAN
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ABOUT THE CUP THAT GOES UP FOR GRABS TODAY

The year was 1979. BB Lal, the then Governor of Sikkim, donated the All India Governor's Gold Cup, thus kick-starting the soccer fiesta in Sikkim, which is now in its 27th year and the only soccer tournament in the country to have an uninterrupted run.

The Gold Cup was designed and made by M/s Cook & Kevley of Kolkata, a famous jewelry designer. The gold cup is made of ten tolas of gold, which is on the top and inner wall of the cup, and a metal-called espn silver. The gold cup weighs about five kilos and is a valuable trophy.

The gold trophy is presented to the winning team for an hour for photo shoots, after which they have to hand back the cup to the Sikkim Football Association. In its lieu, the champion team is presented with a replica of the gold cup and a handsome cash prize, informs Menla Ethenpa of SFA.

All India Governor's Gold Cup Football Tournament has a record of being held continuously for the 28 years since its inception in 1979. Over the years, Sikkim's most prestigious football tournament, which is also the biggest sporting event of the State, has retained popularity among both locals and outsiders.

As informed by Mr. Ethenpa, prior to the Merger, the national game of Sikkim was football; hence, football is in the blood of the people of Sikkim. "This explains the football craze among the people here," he adds.

Apart from mementos and cash prizes to all participating teams, the SFA also gives cash prizes to the teams depending on the number of matches each team has played. The expenses incurred in the transportation of the participating teams and their stay is also borne by the SFA.

-TENZIN DOMA



LIONS GO DOWN

The captured action drives home the close contest that the GMHK Lions XI gave to the Army XI team in the semi-finals of the Governor's Gold Cup on Wednesday. The match eventually ended in Army XI's favour 3-2 and the fauji team has earned itself the record of reaching the finals of both the Governor's and Chief Minister's gold cup running simultaneously at Gangtok and Namchi.

Environment Review Commission Chairman tours North Sikkim

DEEPAK SHARMA

MANGAN, 18 October: Chairman of the Commission for Review and Environment Sector Policies, Plans & Programmes [CRESP], BK Roy Burman was in North Sikkim on a four-day inspection visit from 13 to 16 October during which he met and interacted with the people and the village heads here.

During the visit, Mr. Bur-

man visited the Mangshilla School, which he discovered was facing a shortage of language teachers and was in an urgent need of a Primary Health Centre. At Toong-Naga, the Chairman felt the need for the presence of a PHSC and after interacting with the residents to understand the living standards and their sources of income, he was met with demands from the public for the opening of a

trekking route for the Tosa Lake and the development of village tourism in the area.

At Chungthang, he visited the health centre there and was disappointed with the general lack of sanitation and unhygienic conditions prevailing there and made a public expression of his disconcertion.

Mr. Burman then visited Lachung, where he met with the village Pিপন and suggested to him that with

the consent of the public, the Dzumsa system could be included in the 6th Schedule Programme, which would make the Pিপন system stronger.

He also inspected works carried out under the UNDP Fund at Lachen, where he was informed by the Lachen Pিপন that there was an imbalance between the works achieved and the bud-

turn to pg2

India Today ranks Chungthang-Gurudongmar drive as best in India

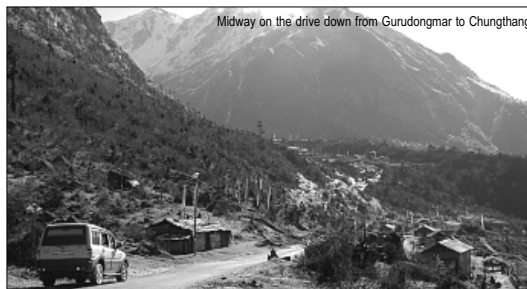
a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 18 Oct: If not India itself, at least *India Today*, has begun to show quite a keen understanding of Sikkim.

In its third article on the State in the last one month or so, *India Today* has given the title of Best Long Drive to the ride from Chungthang to Gurudongmar Lake, in North Sikkim.

In an issue that focuses on 'India's finest experiences for

turn to pg4



Midway on the drive down from Gurudongmar to Chungthang

Champion to battle Champion at Paljor Stadium today

SAGAR CHHETRI/NIKHIL PRADHAN

ARMY XI OUTSTRIKE GMHK LIONS TO MAKE GOLD CUP FINALS

GANGTOK, 18 Oct: Turns out you can bake two cakes and try to have them too.

Army XI has managed to enter the finals of the two most prestigious football tournaments of the State, the Governor's Gold Cup and the Chief Minister's Gold Cup. All that's left to wait and see is if they can have both the cakes. So, there it is the finals of this year's Governor's Gold Cup will be between Air India XI, the 1996 champs, and Army XI, the 1999 cup holders.

In the second semi-final of the Governor's Gold Cup which looked like it was cloned from the first one, Army XI defeated the seemingly invincible GMHK Lions XI by 3 goals to 2 in a match that was stretched to the extra time when regulation time ended even with the score at 2-2.

It was quite evident from the beginning that the match would be a hard fought affair and that's how it unravelled. Both teams kept constant pressure on the opposing defence

but it was only in the 25th minute that Vijay Thapa [11] opened the score for Army XI.

However, in reply Nigerian player Nnajiuba Eze scored the equalizer in the 36th minute. Not to be outdone, Amar [15] of the Army XI scored the second goal for his team three minutes later. The dying minutes of the first half's injury time saw the Nigerians come back again with an equalizer when their captain Subair Muri [16] scored a direct goal through

turn to pg3

Dr. Singh prescribes 10 percent growth target for nation

NEW DELHI, Oct 17 (IANS): Aiming to make India a key player in the global economy, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Wednesday set a growth target of 10 percent for the 11th five-year plan (2007-2012) and stressed the need to "liberate millions" from poverty.

Addressing a full meeting of the Planning Commission, Manmohan Singh said: "The 11th plan is going to be a historic plan in many ways. This is the first time since the planning process began that we will be aiming for a growth rate of 10 percent in the final years of the plan."

"In achieving this growth rate, we would be finally emerging into the front ranks of fast growing developing countries," he said.

Stressing the social aspect of economic development, the prime minister added: "By ensuring that the growth is inclusive, the 11th plan would set our economy on a growth path which would finally liberate millions of our countrymen from the perennial scourges of poverty, ignorance and disease."

To meet the objective of inclusiveness Manmohan Singh called on the planners

to focus on agriculture, employment generation and infrastructure development.

"Our priorities are clear. Agriculture, irrigation and water resources, health, education, critical investment in rural infrastructure, and the essential public investment needs of general infrastructure, along with programmes for the upliftment of schedules castes and schedules tribes; these must have the first claim on resources. Other demands will have to be fitted within this resource availability," he noted.

Summing up the current economic parameters, the prime minister said: "The economy enters the 11th plan period with some important strengths."

It's Punjab Police vs. Army XI final at Namchi

PURAN TAMANG

NAMCHI, 18 Oct: Punjab Police will be taking on Army XI in the finals of the ongoing Chief Minister's Gold Cup being held in Namchi.

The Punjab cops entered the finals by beating Air Force, Delhi, in the semi-finals 5-4 in the penalty shootouts today. Although the match ended scoreless in regular time, it was interesting and kept the large turnout of spectators transfixed throughout.

In the shootouts, the Punjab team capitalized on all their chances and did not miss a goal. However, the Air Force team missed their first goal and ultimately that became the reason for their loss.

turn to pg3

The fading fragrance of the Saipatri flowers



ANAND OBEROI

GANGTOK, 18 Oct: With the 'Teohar' celebrations approaching, one of the most important ingredient of the rituals, the 'Saipatri Flowers', shall hit the markets all over the state this Friday. With the flowers being required for the sisters' offering of 'saipatri malas' to brothers on 'Bhai Tika' or for the mothers to decorate their homes and the 'Bajays' who use them for offering prayers

to the 'Lakshmi Mata', the 'Saipatri' or Marigold has enormous significance for the Nepali community.

But what is different now here is that the flowers of the three local species of 'Saipatri' that were in abundance earlier in State and which were used by the locals has reduced considerably and almost 85% of the demand is met by supplies from Siliguri. Also, Sumbuk area in South District, which was a major supplier of these flowers to

the capital market, can manage only inadequate supply.

The reason, owners in and around Gangtok explain, is that the flowers have just stopped budding. "Earlier, we could make a good amount that would be used during 'Deosi' and 'Bhailo' and contribute to a family to have a good 'Tihar', but now we can't".

These flower growers also mentioned that earlier any household that had an empty

turn to pg3

TATHANGCHEN SEC. SCHOOL
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2006
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THE MOST EXCITING FOOTBALL MATCH I HAVE EVER WITNESSED

NOW!

First With The News

Tourism

The National Capital Territory launched an interesting tourism concept today, one that Sikkim could consider emulating. The NCT State Government floated the 'Incredible India Bed & Breakfast scheme,' under which spare rooms available with house-owners in Delhi will be recognised as boarding facilities for tourists and made available at 'affordable cost for the common tourists who wish to experience the Indian culture'. Simple checks and balances and conditions have been codified and the NCT government hopes to secure about 10,000 budget rooms under this scheme over the next four years. If the idea catches on, the numbers could end up being much higher. India is also considering the option of issuing five to ten year, multiple entry tourist visas to be issued within 48 hours. For this, the External Affairs Ministry and embassies are being lobbied to outsource the paperwork during peak tourist seasons.

Compare this with the tourism planning in Sikkim? The Tourism Department, which tourists will be most comfortable sourcing information from, does not even have a proper website and the extension that it does provides only very sketchy details on accommodation and contact details. Advertisement budgets are necessary, but it is time that the Department also put up a website, which can go easy on the celebration of destinations, but go expansive on info that prospective visitors can use. Even as Delhi unveiled an ambitious stay at homes tourism scheme, Sikkim which has been extensively promoting village homestays and rural tourism, does not even mention it in promotional material yet. Visiting Sikkim is a complicated process for foreign tourists who are made to stick to strict time schedules, inflexible permit regulations and suffer the policy of keeping the more appealing treks and destinations out of bounds. These are not in the State's hands to change, but since the Centre appears to be taking the Incredible India concept seriously, now, perhaps, is the right time to lobby for some policy relaxations in aid of Sikkim Tourism.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Your speciality influences others, so use it the best way you can."

-compiled and shared by BRAHMA KUMARIS

IT'S 'PALJOR,' NOT PALZOR

Noticed that most local and national papers with Sikkim based correspondents covering the Gold Cup football tournament being held here at Gangtok have been referring to our Paljor Stadium as 'Palzor' Stadium.

LETTERS

For the record, the Paljor Stadium is named after Sikkim's late Crown Prince Kunzang Paljor Namgyal, eldest son of Sir Tashi Namgyal. The Crown Prince was commissioned as a Pilot Officer in the Royal Indian Air Force. He served in World War II in 1940-41 when his father voluntarily placed all his resources and manpower at the disposal of the Government of India.

He was killed in active service in a reconnaissance flight near Peshawar, 20th December, 1941 aged only 20 years.

One could be forgiven for not knowing the origins of our places' nomenclature but which reporter could possibly miss the brightly coloured letters at the Paljor Stadium spelling out its name-correctly.

I would like to request your paper and other publications to kindly stick to the correct spelling of the stadium.

Tenzin C. Tashi

PEMBA THONDUP spices up the football season with a reminiscence of a football match played more than three decades ago, in neighbouring Kalimpong between the Sikkim Guards XI and the top team of the region, the Lions XI...

The most exciting football match I have ever witnessed was neither between Brazil and Argentina nor between England and Germany. It was also not a confrontation of Asia's two soccer titans South Korea and Iraq nor the clashes of Calcutta's two traditional rivals East Bengal and Mohan Bagan.

The match in question was held during those days when the idiot box had not invaded our living rooms and video cassettes were unknown commodities for us. World Cup and other prestigious football matches came to us only through the medium of newspapers and magazines. The closest encounter we had with a big match was the running commentary received through radio whenever the two soccer giants of Calcutta played in their city. Those were the days when even a local football match used to evoke the kind of thrill and excitement the present day clashes between top clubs of the country hardly produce. We identified ourselves with our favourite teams and shouted hoarse throughout the game thereby completely involving ourselves with the proceedings. Today we watch a football game more like the way we do a cinema - either with admiration or disgust - and except for occasional "a-ha!" and "ooh!" for some spectacular display the audience participation in the match is rarely visible these days.

It was during that frenetic era that the most exciting and dramatic football match of my life was held at Kalimpong in the semi-final of the Independence Day Shield Football Tournament between the redoubtable Lions XI and our own Sikkim Guards XI. The match was played more than three decades back but by its sheer electrifying impact seems only yesterday.

Lions XI, a combination of several renowned Army teams, had played a couple of tournaments in Gangtok in early seventies and with their dazzling display of soccer they had left an indelible mark in the minds of football lovers of Sikkim. It was however one of those unfathomable mystery of fate that this undoubtedly outstanding team had never won a match against Sikkim Guards whenever they clashed. Their Commander, a football fanatic, failed to comprehend that his team which had vanquished the best in the land and crammed his room with trophies won from various tournaments had never been able to subdue a team called Guards XI. He was believed to have commanded his team to pursue this football team called Guards XI, no matter in which part of the land, sea and air, and overcome them once. It was a command from a great football

When Sikkim Guards Took On the Lions

lover uttered in a pure spirit of a sportsman.

Hence, when Sikkim Guards XI participated in the Independence Day Shield Football Tournament that year the Lions XI too, as expected, entered into the fray. Kalimpong, then "Mecca of football", once again transformed into a rendezvous of thousands of football lovers from Sikkim, Bhutan and adjoining areas and renowned football teams and stars of the region arrived in full gear to compete for the prestigious trophy. It was, however, the arrival of Lions XI with a formidable squad of forty top-notch footballers and five outstanding goalkeepers any team would give their right hand to have in their side that created the greatest flutter in the already bustling Kalimpong. The advent of Lions XI with such a large contingent of ace footballers (most of them from Services XI) evoked so much interest and enthusiasm that even during their morning practice sessions they attracted crowd as large as any ordinary match normally collected.

With their breathtaking mastery over the game and dazzling display of soccer Lions XI served a chilling warning to the teams they would confront of an imminent rout. Rout they did, and during their initial rounds Lions XI literally rolled over their opponents and confidently marched to the semi-final. Nevertheless, their main objective seemed to be to taste a defeat to Guards XI from their hands or should I say feet rather than to lift the coveted trophy. Under such a high strung atmosphere Guards XI rightly maintained a low profile and let Lions XI grab the entire pre-match limelight. But, at the same time, without much of a fanfare, they also booked their berth in the semi-final for the inevitable clash with the Lions XI.

The stage was now set for the confrontation of the tournament. Lions XI were the clear favorites and except for a few die-hard Lions fans in the crowd sympathy of the majority of the spectators lay with the underdog Guards XI who were bound to be crushed in this encounter notwithstanding the oft-repeated cliché "ball has no eyes". Wav of excitement ebbed and flowed in and around the historic Mela ground where every vantage point was filled up with a record gathering of football enthusiasts from all walks of life. All eyes were focused on the

match. Our stomachs were in knots and the tension was simply unbearable.

Under such a supercharged atmosphere the match of the year began. Lions XI made a devastating start and went ahead with a beautiful goal in the very first minute of the game scored by their wily right-inside culminating from a fantastic combined move. That's it, I thought. Massacre of innocents began right from the first bell. Next ten minutes saw Lions XI virtually toying with Guards XI who were desperately holding back the waves and waves of never-ending onslaught on their citadel. The fate of the match seemed a forgone conclusion. Then, in the 15th or 16th minute of the game, Guards XI earned a free kick just outside the dreaded zone. The star centre forward Sonam Toppay of Guards XI took the kick and it was a GOAL! His powerful shot thundered past the wall of Lions XI defenders and crashed into the roof of the net.

...ALMOST 50,000 SPECTATORS WERE TREATED TO 90 PULSATING MINUTES OF NAIL BITING AND UNFORGETTABLE FOOTBALL...

The goal badly jolted Lions XI and the fury with which they launched counter offensive must have made Guards XI regret the mistake they had committed by causing that little damage. With their dazzling footwork, accurate crisp passes, lightning speed and powerful kicks Lions XI made such an incessant assault that they completely overwhelmed their opponents who seemed to have had resigned to the fate of unceremonious exit from the tournament. It was however not to be. Within ten minutes or so veteran Kul Bahadur of Guards XI picked a loose ball near the centre line and feigned to take it with him but instead nonchalantly lobbed the ball towards the goal post of Lions XI. The ball completely outwitted the rival custodian and entered the net. The goal keeper was agast with disbelief so were the entire spectators and so was Kul Bahadur himself. Lions promptly replaced their goalkeeper.

K.B's goal really infused a new life in their team and inspired Guards XI to play their natural game which was not inferior to any other better side of the region. As underdogs Guards XI till then were playing under tremendous psychological pressure, but now they had shrugged off their initial tension and overcome the complex they had developed in playing against a seemingly unbeatable team. Guards

were now one up and the match consequently lived up to the expectation of the spectators. Guards XI, led by the ageless Ran Bahadur, equally rose to the occasion and stifled every move of their opponents by making man-for-man and playing ball-for-ball. The match was now at last evenly matched.

The lemon break saw Guards XI leading by a goal and after the break a determined Lions XI took up the field with vengeance. 15 minutes of electrifying soccer under thunderous cheers of football lovers twinkled by us without even our notice. Then a perfectly timed pass from Deo Kumar, the nimble footed ace right inside of Guards XI, near his own half line, with a yell "TOPGAY" sent the Guards' star striker Sonam Toppay galloping like an Arabian horse (which incidentally was his nickname) towards Lions' goal. That was the scene I would never forget in my life. The moment Deo Kumar sent that fine pass Toppay pounced upon it like a tiger and ran like a wind with at least five equally fast star defenders of Lions chasing after him right from the centre line. Toppay not only outtraced all of them but the dexterity with which he pulled the goalkeeper out and placed the ball in the far corner of the net undoubtedly made him the hero of the day. The entire Mela ground erupted into raptures and we nearly went bonkers with indescribable excitement. None of us knew how we jumped into the lower galleries. With understandable wet eyes we were congratulating each other and strangers were embracing and pumping our hands.

Lions XI completely fell apart after that spectacular goal and Guards XI on the other hand played the game of their life. At the fag end of the match Lions XI reduced the margin. However, the speedy left-winger Karma Lhendup of Guards XI once again bulged the net, and the final result stood at 4-2 in favour of Guard XI.

It was indeed a great game fought magnificently by both the sides and had been well supervised by umpire Kali Bahadur. Almost 50,000 spectators were treated to 90 pulsating minutes of nail biting and unforgettable football. The match contained all the joy and despair, excitement and drama of a historic clash and, best of all, it was played in a true sportsman spirit.

I forgot who eventually lifted the coveted Independence Day shield. As far as we were concerned, the final was over. All that mattered eventually was the Guards XI registered a convincing and a memorable victory in one of the most exciting and dramatic matches ever played in the historic Mela ground. With that spectacular victory our native footballers once again proved that Sikkim did not produce only cardamoms and oranges.

On the occasion of the 28th All India Governor Gold Cup football tournament I remember and salute these gallant heroes of Sikkim Guards XI, wherever you are my brothers.

The Art of Teaching

RAJESH SINGH

The very essence of a teacher is known by the quality of teaching. It is because the quality of teaching has its impact on the behaviour of the learner in one way or the other. The quality of teaching co-ordinates intelligence and emotions to generate new knowledge which makes a man creative. A teacher occupies a prominent role in the society because of his teaching ability. Teaching learning strategies have been considered one of the most important ways for the development of creativity among children and adults. The teaching of mathematics has been a challenge to teachers since time immemorial. History is witness to the fact that arithmetic and language were the important subjects in ancient times. The lecture method was mostly used as a method of teaching. Obviously, we cannot teach mathematics the way a language or social studies is taught in our schools. The teaching of mathematics requires more emphasis on the process aspect rather than the product. The teacher's insightful preparation and methodological presentation of content matter can create a delightful environment in the classroom. Good preparation and good delivery system can turn a child into a creative person. Carpenter [1962] in a work on nature and essence of creativity asserts that a teacher's lack of attention arrests creativity development in a specific area. There are several schools administrators who are very authoritarian in the name of discipline and do not allow students to talk, to share their ideas or to play in the school campus; they want that the classes should be held in pin drop silence and teachers should teach as they want. They do not know that such environment inhibits the student's creativity. Alex Osborn writes, "Creativity is so delicate a flower that praise tends to make it bloom while discouragement often nips it in the bud". By and large, a country's 3 Ps (Prosperity, Progression and Power) depends upon creative brain power of that country. In the absence of creative brain power no country can be progressive or satisfied.

Teaching is neither a dead activity nor does it harbour stagnancy. It can change brain functioning and mould students to think creatively. It is a personal type of activity in which a teacher tries to present content matter in the classroom. Teaching-learning and curriculum are the three important pillars of any education system. If any one among them weakens the whole education system will

collapse. Teaching to a certain extent, has been considered an extremely complex area of human behaviour. Development of mathematical creativity has been given high priority by the mathematicians, educationists, experimental psychologists etc. What exactly is important for the development of mathematical creativity among children and adults is a difficult question. Tammadge [1979] suggests that there is an urgent need for teachers of mathematics to identify, encourage and improve creative mathematical ability at all levels.

If a student is going in a positive direction of thinking, hard labour can turn him or her to become a creative person. An ultimate aim of mathematics teachers and teacher educators is to discover ways and means for developing mathematical creativity among students. An important component of realising this aim is the development of appropriate teaching-learning strategies. Only one teaching strategy is not sufficient to deal with either all the branches of mathematics or various topics related to them. There is no uniform method of teaching mathematics and no uniform mathematical mind. Some students are very slow

Environment Review Commission Chairman tours North Sikkim...

Contd from pg1

few others think logically while others think intuitively. Krutetskii [1976] writes that "flexibility of mental processes" is an important component of mathematical ability in school children. Restrictions always oppose solving a problem in mathematics. Few children show a predisposition to think in rigid ways as a result of which rigidity develops in actions and attitudes. Learning of fixed procedures, which are generally used by the mathematics teachers, may contribute to attitudes, which favour the development of rigid behaviour.

Development of teaching skills is the key function of the education department where prospective teachers are enrolled for training and it is assumed that a prospective teacher will acquire those skills, which may be helpful for the development of creative thinking abilities among students when he/she will teach. No change is easy or difficult. It is only the teacher who makes it easy or difficult through his classroom behaviour. We are all aware of the fact that one of the important components of teaching-learning strategy is the type of questions put in the classroom.

[The writer is a Lecturer in Education, Damber Singh College, 6th Mile, Tadong]

whereas others are very fast. Few students think logically while others think intuitively. Krutetskii [1976] writes that "flexibility of mental processes" is an important component of mathematical ability in school children. Restrictions always oppose solving a problem in mathematics. Few children show a predisposition to think in rigid ways as a result of which rigidity develops in actions and attitudes. Learning of fixed procedures, which are generally used by the mathematics teachers, may contribute to attitudes, which favour the development of rigid behaviour.

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[The writer is a Lecturer in Education, Damber Singh College, 6th Mile, Tadong]

NOW! SUDOKU

	3			9	4			
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9		2						
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			6					3
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	5			2	7	3	6	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

8	7	6	2	5	9	1	4	3
3	2	9	8	1	4	7	6	5
4	1	5	3	6	7	9	2	8
6	3	1	5	7	2	4	8	9
7	5	4	6	9	8	3	1	2
9	8	2	4	3	1	5	7	6
5	9	8	1	4	6	2	3	7
2	4	7	9	8	3	6	5	1
1	6	3	7	2	5	8	9	4

The aim of Sudoku is to enter a number from 1 through 9 in each cell of a 9x9 grid made up of 3x3 sub-grids, starting with various digits already given in some cells; each row, column, and sub-grid can contain only one instance of each number. Today's solution is on pg6

6-month plumbing training begins at West Pandam

a NOW REPORT
GANGTOK, 18 Oct: A six-month long Self Employed Worker Association Kendra 'Plumbing' training programme was launched on 14 October 2006 by Tikaram Darji of West Pandam at Amar Jyoti Club House.

The programme, scheduled to conclude on 14 March 2007, is being sponsored by the Department of Sports & Youth Affairs in association with Nehru Yuva Kendra, Gangtok. The programme will train 20 youth of the locality, informs a press release issued by Amar Jyoti Club.

The inaugural programme was also attended by JK Limboo, District Convener of NYK and members of the club along with more than 150 villager of West Pandam, the release informed.

It's Punjab Police...

Contd from pgl
The finals will be taking place on the 20th of October and will have the CM present as the Chief Guest. The finals will also include some other programs.

LAND FOR SALE
Measuring areas 3400sq.ft. at 5th Mile, Below Highway, near C.P. Golai Building. Contact: 943448621, 03595250382

FLAT FOR SALE
Two Nos, newly constructed flats are on Sale near Housing Colony, Tadong. For details contact: 03592-231178

LAND FOR SALE
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ADMISSION NOTICE
PNG SCHOOL ADMISSION FORMS available for ADMISSION IN LKG, UKG, CLASS I & II from 18th October 2006 for the session of 2007

UCWS marks 10th Anniv

a NOW REPORT
GANGTOK, 18 Oct: United Christian Welfare Society of Sikkim today observed its 10th anniversary at Singtam EPC Bhawan with Food & Civil Supplies Minister Kalawati Subba gracing the occasion as the chief guest.

Mrs. Subba in her address expressed her gratitude towards the organizing committee for inviting her for the religious function and also handed over a 'Letter of Appreciation' to Elder

Andrew Rai and CP Dewan on behalf of the Society for their contributions to the society.

Mr. Rai and Mr. Dewan also spoke on the occasion. The programme was followed by prayer ceremony conducted by Rev. Samuel Lepcha and reciting of bhajans by IT Lepcha and group.

Later, the audience was enthralled by Nepali folk songs sung by famous singer Sukmit Rai, informs a press release issued by Kamal Chamlung, Publicity Secretary of the Society.

Saipatri flowers...

Contd from pgl
space would grow 'Saipatri' during this season, many would go to towns such as Gangtok, Ranipool and Singtam and fetch good returns.

"We used to come to Gangtok with full 'Dokos', but have been unable to do so for the last two years," said a flower seller who said a flower seller who said he used to go to the neighbouring villages before Teohar and lift enough consignments to service Gangtok.

"Even the porters who carried the loads were happy then along with the people who sold us these flowers at various street corners around towns," recalled another flower seller.

These flower sellers at Lal Bazaar also mentioned that since the production in villages had gone down drastically, everyone now relied on large consignments from Siliguri.

"We have now started bringing these flowers from Siliguri, even if these flowers look beautiful with all of the 'Malas' in appropriate shapes and sizes, these flowers shall never be able to compare with what has been used by the people through generations," they admit.

They also mentioned that what made the local flowers better was the different sizes that would be brought, and which could be separated by

size for different applications, such as small ones for the 'malas', the larger ones for the Kalash in which the flowers are offered to the gods and medium sized ones to decorate the houses.

"All that is now not there, the flowers coming from Siliguri are just decorative, but what the local flowers gave was a festive spirit in the entire village, the fragrance of 'Saipatri' in full bloom lifted spirits and spread a festive mood."

The outsourcing to Siliguri, from where the flowers come sewn into strands ['readymade' as someone put it], has also led to the slow phasing out of the pleasant ritual of watching families busy with preparing 'malas', marking a collective enterprise that undined Teohar.


"What makes this festival auspicious is the ladies of the house sewing these 'malas' themselves. Now, with these 'malas' coming readymade, the traditional feel is missing," commented a passerby when he spied flower-sellers being interviewed for Teohar.

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Antihyesthi Kriya

 Our beloved MEERA passed away on 13th October 2006. We would like to thank all who lovingly supported us in our time of inexpressible sorrow and loss. The Antihyesthi Kriya ceremony is on the 25th October 2006 [Wednesday] at our residence on Church Road, Gangtok. We would like to invite all who knew and loved her to join us in prayer and good wishes for her onward journey beyond life. Tej Bahadur Thapa & family

Antihyesthi Kriya

The Antihyesthi Kriya of Late. Smt. Sabita Devi Basnet, wife of late K.B.S. Basnet, who left for her heavenly abode on 08 October 2006 falls on Friday, 20th October 2006. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul on the said day at Rawley Rumtek, East Sikkim. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who extended their help and support in our time of bereavement. U.B. Basnet [son], Ganga Basnet, Sora Basnet [daughters-in-law], Mahendra Basnet [son]

 Semering Hena [Antihyesthi Kriya] We are deeply grateful to all our friends, relatives and well wishers for their sympathy and support on the sad demise of our beloved mother Late [Smt.] Kaushila Limboo on 30th August 2006. We request all to join us for offering prayers for the departed soul on the Semering Hena [Antihyesthi Kriya] on 28th October 2006 at our residence at 9th Mile, Namli, Ranipool, East Sikkim. D.K. Subba [Limboo] [husband], Tej, Bishal, Lalit [sons], Runamith [daughter-in-law], Alicia [daughter] & Li Hang [grandson] Ph: 254315, 9434486319, 983242141

SDF awareness camp against AIDS and substance abuse at Namthang

a NOW REPORT

NAMCHH, 18 Oct: The local unit of the Sikkim Democratic Front organized a day long awareness camp on HIV/AIDS and substance abuse at Namthang Senior Secondary School premises today. The awareness camp was organised on the advice of the Chief Minister, informed SDF member, R Tamang. The camp was attended

by former Minister Dr. DP Kharel as the chief guest, area MLA AS Baraily as a special guest, Panchayats, teachers, students and local people.

Mr. Baraily urged the students to be alert against and aware of HIV and to not indulge in drug abuse. Dr. Kharel briefed the gathering on how AIDS spreads and the methods of prevention. The Principal of the school also addressed the gathering.

Champion to battle Champion at Paljor Stadium today...

Contd from pgl

a fabulous free kick. The half-time thus ended 2-2. The second half too saw both sides attack, but this time around both defences were keeping stronger vigil, which led to the match being extended into extra time. MG Ramachandran [9] of the Army XI ensured that this team pocketed the match when he scored in the 2nd minute of extra time. The Nigerian players tried their utmost to equalize but to no avail.

This result leaves us with two very different teams eyeing the Rs. 3 lakh cash prize and lifting the prestigious trophy. Air India is a bit flashier and appears slightly more adept at spontaneity in their attack. However, Army XI has probably got one of the best defences seen in this tournament. Although, their attack might not be as good, their players are tough and seem comfortable with switching tactics as the moment demands.

From Air India, certainly the player to look out for is Basitu M Abbas who has already

scored thrice in the four matches that his team has played. In fact, the only match he did not score in ended in a goalless draw. From the army team, MG Ramachandran looks like a fine player who can be very dangerous when a goal is required.

The crowd seems to have a soft side for the Army XI since they have been regulars at the Gold Cup. Most of the cheers in the finals will certainly be reserved for them. Air India and Army XI have both defeated ANFA Nepal and Sikkim Sports Academy on their way to the finals. The army team also played in the preliminary knock out round, where they defeated Punjab Police.

One thing that points towards the finals being a match that will be remembered is the fact the both the finalists have faced each other earlier, in the Quarter Final league, and that match had ended in a draw. Neither of the teams will waste this opportunity to prove once and for all that they are the better team.

Get you seat-belts ready, because tomorrow we are in for one hell of a ride.

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Age: The age of the candidates should be preferably between 22 to 28 yrs as on 31.10.2006

2. Applications are also invited from persons with B.E./B. Tech, Computer Engineer, MCA for making panel for positions of Junior Research Fellow in Projects on purely contractual basis on standard application forms. The selection will be based on the merit. The candidates must submit their transcript/ mark sheets for all semesters and percentage marks from HSLC onwards.

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The Olympics go Mini at TNA

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 18 Oct: The three-day long Mini-Olympics [Annual Sports-2006] of Tashi Namgyal Academy commenced today here at the school ground.

Minister for the Human Resource Development Department cum Chairman of TNA Board, GM Gurung was present as the chief guest

for the opening day.

While talking on the importance of the sports in his address, Mr. Gurung said that sports was also an important part of education because without sports, education is handicapped and to learn only to read and write was not enough.

He also declared the opening of the Mini Olympics.

The flag hoisting by the

chief guest was followed by the lighting of the Olympic torch and oath taking ceremony.

The opening day also witnessed the march past by the students, in which salute was taken by the HRDD Minister and also a mass drill by the junior students.

The opening day was then followed by the various events for the junior students of the school.

The opening ceremony was also attended by the Principal, Anil Chandra Rai, teachers and students of TNA along with the parents of the students.

India Today ranks Chungthang...

Contd from pg1

the mind, body and soul", the one page feature on the drive gushes about how during the drive one can see "brilliant Rhododendron blooms in spring or the most dramatic fall colours in autumn".

The magazine also talks

about the mamots, blue sheep and yaks, framed by "the gleaming snows" of Kanchenjau and Chomionio peaks which can be seen once one reaches the Tibetan Plateau.

This article can only come as a shot in the arm for the still-seeking-publicity Sikkim tourism sector.

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8,000 drummers to beat for a world record at Shillong

SHILLONG, Oct 18 (IANS): A band of 8,000 drummers aiming to set a record-breaking beat session in India's northeastern state of Meghalaya will perform next week before an adjudicator from the Guinness Book of World Records.

"The rehearsals are on for a maximum of five minutes of synchronised drum beats where an adjudicator from the Guinness world record would be present to verify this historic feat," Aiban S. Mawkroh, general secretary of the Meghalaya Tourism Development Forum (MTDF), told IANS.

The current Guinness world record for the "largest drum

ensemble" was set in February 2005 by Po Leung Kuk, a charity organisation in Hong Kong helping orphaned children, who assembled 7,727 drummers. The record was previously held by Grammy award winner Mickey Hart, who assembled 4,374 drummers at the Global Festival for Peace in Laytonville, California, in 2004.

Organisers are planning to get the 8,000 drummers to play together in an open stadium Oct 28 to kick off the state's weeklong Autumn Festival. The drummers will play a newly composed piece called "Positive Vibrations" by noted local composer and guitarist Rudy Wallang.

"We have purchased thou-

sands of drums for the event, although many of the participants would be bringing in their traditional drums attired in local customs for the grand show," M. Lansing, vice chairperson of the MTDF, said.

From schoolchildren to professionals, the participants who have enrolled for the record-breaking event will have a full dress rehearsal a day before the event.

"The enthusiasm is tremendous and we hope this record-breaking event will change the perception of the outside world towards the northeast - this region is not just about killings and violence and we are capable of positive things as well," Mawkroh said.

The drum ensemble apart, the Autumn Festival will have events like water sports, kite flying, fishing, archery, besides jugglers and entertainers from Australia to entertain the crowd.

"This would be a gala carnival and we expect people from both India and abroad to take part in the festivities," Meghalaya Tourism Minister R.G. Lyngdoh said.

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