

## International Yoga Day on June 21



**GANGTOK, JUNE 12/-/** The International Yoga Day 2018 is all set to be celebrated at Palzor Stadium in Gangtok on June 21 with cooperation and coordination of various departments of the Sikkim government.

Chief Secretary Sikkim, A.K. Shrivastava chaired a high level coordination meeting to assess the preparedness for International Yoga Day on Tuesday. Addressing the meeting, Shrivastava called upon all the Heads of Departments and officials from various other

agencies to work in proper coordination and cooperation to give out the best results. He iterated that all the preparations have to be done on war footing. He took detailed stock of the roles and responsibilities of each department. Around 200 participants from NCC, NSS, SSB, ITBP and students from various schools, colleges and universities would take part in the event. The rehearsal for the event would be held on June 19 at Palzor Stadium. (IPR)

## Training for poultry farmers



**NAMCHI, JUNE 12/-/** A one-day training on entrepreneurship development for poultry farmers under Poultry Mission Phase IV was organized on Tuesday at the Officer Club, Namchi South Sikkim. Around 55 progressive farmers from different part of

south district participated in the programme. Farmers were also provided with advance incentive of Rs 10,000 each for construction of poultry sheds. They were also informed that other sheds would be handed over in due course. -- SHEKHAR KHAWAS

## Cobbler Sanjay's success in Madhyamik lauded in abundance

EOI PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENT

**MALDA, JUNE 12/-/** The success of a teenage cobbler scoring 465 with personal effort has earned abundant appreciations from all quarters. Sanjay Rabidas, 16, of Konua Madhyampara village under Olinda gram panchayat in Chanchal I block Sanjay has obtained 72 in Bengali, 61 in English, 56 in mathematics, 50 in physical science, 68 in life science, 74 in history and 84 in geography.



The successful student

"Sanjay is my only son. His father Jagadish Rabidas died 13 years ago out of serious illness. My elder son works as a migrant labourer. Sanjay works as a cobbler to support our family," said Kalyani Rabidas who herself works as a maid.

"I could not afford a private tutor for him. He couldn't regular to school to as he had to work hard most of the days to earn few bucks. It's his single handed success and all credit goes to him," the proud mother said.

Raja Chowdhury, headmaster of Konua Bhanipur high school where Sanjay appeared in Madhyamik said, "He has made us proud. We shall take care of his studies."

Sanjay, the hero, is however confident of a bright future. "We, the poor have nothing except the determination to success and the blessings from the Almighty. I must help my family get rid of poverty with my studies," he said.

## Dalu, Mausam, deny leaving Congress

EOI CORRESPONDENT

**MALDA, JUNE 12/-/** Congress MP from Malda south and former Union Minister of State, Abu Hasem Khan Choudhury (Dalu) and Malda North MP Mausam Noor have asserted that they would not leave the Congress by any means. Khan Choudhury and Noor met DM, Malda Kaushik Bhattacharya to discuss the plight of mango-growers following 'nipa-panic' on Tuesday. "There is no question of our leaving Congress. We are hopeful that Congress would regain its political influence in Malda shortly," Mausam Noor said. Khan Choudhury was irked when scribes asked him if he was leaving the Congress.



Abu Hasem Khan Choudhury and Mausam Noor

## Hill teachers' delegation meets education minister

EOI CORRESPONDENT

**MALDA, JUNE 12/-/** A delegation of teachers from Darjeeling and Siliguri met West Bengal education minister Partha Chatterjee in Kolkata on Tuesday. Members of the delegation discussed several issues relating to their service conditions with Chatterjee.

Members of Siliguri & Darjeeling Teachers' Organization (SDTO) and Siksha Cell brought to the education minister's notice the crisis of the working teachers who could not obtain the B Ed degree so far. "Some teachers couldn't get admitted into B Ed course as they had less than 50 percent marks in graduation or post-graduation," said Amit Gurung, secretary of SDTO. Kabindra Sharma, president of the organization said that the issue of setting up a university in hills was also raised during the meeting with the education minister. Dipen Tamang, Tilak Thakur, Sharma Binay Tamang, Sagar Roy, Ajit Roy and other members of the delegation said that they were happy with the meeting as Chatterjee assured them to look into their demands.

## Stationery scam: Vigilance raids on Sangrur traders

**GANGTOK, JUNE 12/-/** The Vigilance Bureau last Friday raided the residences of owners of a trading group. The case pertains to the alleged embezzlement of Rs 37.50 lakh of the Kharar block Samiti. As per the charges, the accused in connivance with some panchayat department officers showed the sale of stationery worth Rs 37.50 lakh to the Block Samiti for onward supply to panchayats. Following complaints, the VB found that no stationery was supplied and fake entries were made in records. "We have registered a case under the Prevention of Corruption Act for embezzlement of government funds," said DSP Ravinder Singh, who led the raiding team. -- DEEPAK SHARMA

## Three injured in clash over soil-lifting

EOI PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENT

**MALDA, JUNE 12/-/** Three inhabitants of Chaharkatola village under Ratus police station were attacked with sharp weapons after they had protested against collection of soil by a brick-kiln owner on Monday evening. Arzal Sheikh, 40 and Nazrul Sheikh, 45- two of the injured - are under treatment at Malda medical college & hospital (MMCH). Another injured identified as Akbar Haji, 50 is being treated at Ratus rural hospital. Although police detained one in connection with the incident, prime accused Badrudin Sheikh and his five henchmen are still at large.

It has been learnt from sources in the district police that Arzal Sheikh and his associates tried to prevent Badrudin Sheikh, Naimul Sheikh and others while the latter were allegedly lifting soil from a land adjacent to the former's plot.

The brawl between two groups soon turned violent and Badrudin and his group attacked Arzal and his friends with sharp and heavy weapons.

Injured in the attack Arzal and two of his group members were rescued by neighbours and taken to Ratus hospital. Later, two of them were referred to MMCH.

Police said that one person was detained. Searches are continuing for other accused.

## Newborn's death in NBMCH, negligence blamed

EOI CORRESPONDENT

**SILIGURI, JUNE 12/-/** Controversy hit North Bengal Medical College & Hospital (NBMCH) after a newborn fell from the care of an ayah and died instantly. The situation came under control after NBMCH authorities assured that the matter would be looked into and action taken. According to sources in NBMCH, Kalyani Roy of Ghoshpukur area in Siliguri delivered a baby on Monday night. But her husband Prabhat Roy to his dismay was told by the nurses on Tuesday morning that the newborn died soon after delivery. However, Roy claimed that he was told by other patients of the female ward that his newborn fell on the floor from the lap of the contractual female attendant. The newborn reportedly had head injury and died soon.

Parents of the dead newborn brought the matter to NBMCH authority. The medical super of the hospital has reportedly assured to look into the complaint.

## Minister slams officials for failing to reach target of paddy-purchase



The minister holding the meeting

EOI CORRESPONDENT

**COOCHBEHAR, JUNE 12/-/** West Bengal minister for food & supply department Jyotipriya Mallick expressed on Tuesday strong discontent at the 'unsatisfactory performance' of district administrations in collecting paddy from the farmers. The minister asked officials to act promptly

in reaching the target of purchasing paddy as set by the state government.

Mallick held a meeting at Lansdowne Hall with district officials in presence of North Bengal development minister Rabindranath Ghosh, local MP Partha Pratim Roy, sabhadhupati of zilla parishad Pushpita Roy and DM Koushik Saha.

The officials responsible for purchasing paddy could not escape the minister's wrath when he noticed that against the target of purchase 1.15 lakh ton of paddy, only 60000 metric ton could be availed so far.

"Why Coochbehar should depend on rice produced in other districts. You have to be independent in

procuring rice. Chief Minister has sanctioned Rs 8900 crore, highest amount for food & supply department in the budget. Officials have right in thwarting plan of the state government," irked minister said. Mallick also warned that strong action would be taken if poor quality of rice was distributed through rationing system.

## Woodpeddling racket busted, two arrested with furniture of Rs 7 lakh

EOI CORRESPONDENT

**JALPAIGURI, JUNE 12/-/** Forest officials of Belakoba range in Jalpaiguri arrested two persons and seized a large quantity of wooden furniture from a private bus from Fatapukur area under Rajganj police station on Monday night. Price of seized wooden furniture is estimated to be over Rs 7 lakh, as learnt from sources in the forest department. Sanjay Dutta, Ranger of Belakoba Forest Range said that his officials were following the bus from Jhahangi area near Dhupguri and finally stopped it at Fatapukur. "Two in-

habitants of Bihar were arrested. The duo was carrying the furniture to Mujafarpur in Bihar from Manipur. They were nabbed because they couldn't produce any supporting paper for carrying such large quantity of wooden furniture," Dutta said.

The wooden furniture were kept on roof of the bus which was stopped in national highway -27. The bus was produced in court on Tuesday. Forest officials informed that they had information of such illegal transfer of wood and wooden furniture. Hence, acting on a tip off net was laid to bust the racket.

## Boy drowned in Teesta Canal

EOI CORRESPONDENT

**SILIGURI, JUNE 12/-/** Arjun Halder, a young boy from Mahipara in Siliguri today drowned at Teesta Canal where he got down, along with two of his friends for a batch in order to escape the scorching summer heat. While two of his friends came out, Halder could not and the police and the disaster management team have launched a massive rescue operation to find him.

## Traffic snarls will a thing of the past for Siliguri soon

EOI CORRESPONDENT

**SILIGURI, JUNE 12/-/** Traffic snarls will be a thing of the past for Siliguri very soon, state minister for tourism Gautam Dev today said. "We are making all efforts to fulfil that mission. Four-lane and six-lane roads and flyovers are being constructed. But we also want modernisation of the city management and for that the civic Board will have to take initiatives. The present Left-run Board thrives only on propaganda and they are doing precious little for the improvement of the situation which I think is a misfortune for the people of Siliguri," the minister today said at Siliguri.

## Sumeti Mukti Morcha demands higher wage for tea-garden employees

EOI CORRESPONDENT

**MALDA, JUNE 12/-/** Leaders of Sumeti Mukti Morcha (SMM) demanded higher wages for the tea-garden workers while addressing the media in Darjeeling on Tuesday. Bikash Rai, president of Morcha said, "Primeminister Narendra Modi declared Rs 360 as the minimum daily wage for tea-garden workers. But the actual wage is much lesser than the said amount." The SMM leadership alleged that poor wage deterred the tea-garden labourers from arranging better education and health of their wards. "Hence, kids are forced to start working as labourers too to support their families. The governments in the state and the Centre should come up with package for such tea-garden workers. Their problems should be resolved immediately," Rai said.

## Venomous snake seized in Dhupguri

EOI CORRESPONDENT

**JALPAIGURI, JUNE 12/-/** An Indian cobra or spectacled cobra locally known as 'Gokhro' was caught from the house of Tapan Roy of Khalaignam area under Dhupguri police station late on Monday night. The snake was hiding in a hole of the cemented floor. Mintu Dutta Chowdhury, a snake specialist and president of Doars Nature & Snake Lovers' Club recovered the snake with his club members. "The snake is a female one. It entered Roy's house in search of food or to lay eggs. Owing to random deforestation snakes are taking shelters at human habitations nowadays," Dutta Chowdhury said.

## India aid to Nepal in irrigation in Terai region

**KATHMANDU, JUNE 12/-/** India has extended a financial aid of US \$ 10 crore to Nepal for the construction of 2,700 shallow tube well irrigation systems in 12 districts of the country's southern Terai region to boost agricultural productivity. The assistance has been extended as part of the final payment for the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Irrigation Project, which was launched in January last year to boost growth to the Himalayan nation's agricultural sector through enhanced facilities. PTI

## AIDS patient abandoned at river bank

EOI CORRESPONDENT

**TUFANGANJ, JUNE 12/-/** Tension gripped Marung area of Tufanganj sub-division of Coochbehar district as a person afflicted with HIV was found abandoned on the banks of the river near the area on Sunday. The person however was rescued and admitted to Natabari government hospital. According to reports, the person went to Maharashtra in 2007 in search of a job after his parents died and there he fell ill. After he got to know from doctors that he had been afflicted with AIDS virus, he came back to West Bengal and started staying with his grand mother. Later following the death of his grandmother his cousins, who got to know about his ailment, did not allow him to stay there and later left him on the banks of the river. Said BD Prasad, Tufanganj Block I Subahit Desgupta. "It was quite inhuman. However, we have arranged for his treatment." According to Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Coochbehar Sumit Gangopadhyay, the relatives did this because of lack of awareness. "HIV is not infectious disease. We will launch awareness campaigns for that," Gangopadhyay said.

## Sherpas want land protection under old law of Sikkim

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Asking a jibe at Charming's statement about the Sherpas of Sikkim being misled, the DSA argued that it was the responsibility of the government not to let them go astray and show them the right path. The population of Sherpas in Sikkim was more than 60,000, claimed the DSA president. "We are ready to hold discussion with the state government to find a viable solution to the issue" said Sherpa. Justifying their argument, Passang Sherpa also said, "The Gazetteer of Sikkim by H. H. Risley, published in the 1894 has clubbed the Sherpa community under the Bhutia-Lepcha community. This means that it is even earlier than Revenue order number 1. So the Chief Minister should understand our history." He also said other community such as Lachungpa, Kaji and Kagate under the BL community are enjoying equal treatment. "Why only Sherpa community is being singled out," asked Passang Sherpa.

## Maiden court at Yangyang sub-division set up

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The CM also encouraged advocates to provide assistance especially to the needy and also responsible in ensuring protection the peace and harmony of the state. He added that the lawyers played a decisive leadership role. They should maintain the highest standards of professional ethics and a spirit of public service. The CM said that the state government has consistently assured all logistical support to ensure that the working of the court remains robust. Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim Mr. Justice Satish Kumar Agnihotri highlighted that the setting up of the court at Yangyang was one of the most notable moments. He also added that the history of judiciary in the state and brought to light the various courts which had been set up in Sikkim. He emphasized how the state government had assisted in further development of the judicial infrastructure in the state and emphasized that access to free and fair justice would be essential for everyone. Also present during the occasion were State Law Minister R. B. Subba as the guest of honour alongside Judge, High Court of Sikkim Mr. Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Minister Building & Housing Department D.T. Lepcha and members of Sikkim Bar Association.