

Guwahati media to interact with Survival International



By NJ Thakuria
Guwahati, Nov 22,

Survival International, a global tribal rights' protection platform, will be available for

interaction with member-journalists of Guwahati Press Club on 30 November 2018. Sophie Grig of the influential nonprofit organization will answer various media queries through the video conferencing from London in the Friday program starting at 3 pm. Founded in 1969, Survival International campaigns for the rights of indigenous tribal people across the globe. Its campaigns generally focus on tribal peoples' desires to keep their

ancestral lands. The active non-government organization calls these peoples some of the most vulnerable on Earth and aims to eradicate what it calls misconceptions used to justify violations of human rights. Survival aims to help foster tribal people's self-determination. To ensure freedom of action, the outfit does not accept government funding. Besides London, Survival has offices in Amsterdam, Berlin, Madrid, Milan, Paris and

San Francisco. Days back, the organization criticized the foresters of Kaziranga National Park for adopting rude approach towards the tribal families at the fringe localities in the name of wildlife conservation. Survival even blamed BBC's Natural History Unit for attempting to retreat from a BBC News report that vindicated the locals' concerns. GPC member-journalists are requested to participate in the program.

J&K Assembly dissolved after rival alliances stake claim to form govt

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 22,

Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satyapal Malik dissolved the State Assembly last evening after rival alliances led by PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti and People's Conference leader Sajjad Lone staked claim to form the government. Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik today said that formation of a stable new



government in the state was an "impossibility" as parties with opposing political ideologies "including some which have been demanding the dissolution of the Assembly" were coming together. He termed such an alliance as "an attempt to gain power rather than to form a responsive government. In an exclusive interview to ANI and DD News, Governor Malik said that he had been receiving

complaints about the past 15 days of horse trading & that MLAs were being threatened. He defended his decision to dissolve the state assembly and said that the Election Commission will decide when polls will be held in the state. Governor Malik said that PDP Chief and former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti herself complained that her MLAs were being threatened while other party said there was planning of distribution of

money. Malik said that he could not have allowed this to happen and hence was left with no alternative but to dissolve the State Assembly. J&K Governor said that whatever he did was in the interest of the common people of J&K State. He said that when these parties having opposing political ideologies saw things slipping out of their hands, they came up with an unholy alliance to form a government which would never have been stable. Meanwhile, the core group meeting of the state unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was underway in Jammu wherein the party leaders are discussing the future strategy in the wake of the dissolution of State assembly. BJP state President Ravinder Raina has said that party is in favour of holding Assembly elections in the State along with parliamentary elections.

Air India pilot Arvind Kathpalia to lose airport access

Agency
New Delhi, Nov. 22

Senior Air India pilot Arvind Kathpalia, stripped of his flying licence for three years and demoted after failing an alcohol test shortly before he was to command a flight from New Delhi to London on November 11, is set to lose his automatic access to airports. The civil aviation ministry has started the process of revoking Kathpalia's airport entry pass. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), which issues the passes to airline employees and crew, has asked Air India to surrender Kathpalia's pass, which allows him access to all airports and all areas within airports. "We have asked Air India

to submit his pass as he is not a licence holder now. The pass is issued to pilots with valid commercial pilot licence. Senior members of airlines, who often have to visit the airports, are also issued a pass. But in his case, he is not member of Air India board now, so he will not be allowed to enter the airport (other than as a passenger)," said a BCAS official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Also, till the (time the) airline submits his pass, we have asked airports to not allow him in case he tries to enter using his airport entry pass." Kathpalia, who was removed from the post of director (operations) after he tested positive for alcohol content, has been demoted to executive director without any

portfolio. Civil aviation minister Suresh Prabhudev approved his removal. Air India has also ordered a vigilance enquiry in the matter. An Air India spokesperson said that since Kathpalia will be without a portfolio, his entry pass will be submitted to BCAS and that he will not be required to visit airports for official purposes. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) suspended the flying licence of the 56-year-old Air India pilot for three years on November 12, a day after he was found to have an unacceptably high blood alcohol count just before he was scheduled to pilot a flight. "The selection commission selects the director (operations) and usually the senior most

pilot gets the job. Kathpalia was selected following the procedure and since he has now been removed, he automatically becomes executive director, which is a demotion. He was not sacked by the aviation ministry so he will be assigned some designation. He can come to office but will not be part of any meeting," said an Air India official who asked not to be named. Kathpalia was previously suspended for three months in January when he tested positive for alcohol consumption during a pre-flight breathalyser test. He had resumed duty after serving the suspension. As per the recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organisation, the level of blood alcohol compatible (BAC) with safe flying is

'zero'. Kathpalia had 007% BAC. A third violation could mean the permanent cancellation of his flying licence. "When a senior pilot, who is also part of top management, violates rules blatantly, he should not be allowed to continue. By demoting him to ED, Air India is ensuring that he retires with all the privileges. He should not be allowed to burn taxpayers' money and his airport entry pass should also be revoked immediately," said captain Mohan Ranganathan, an aviation safety expert. On January 19 last year, Kathpalia flew a Delhi-Bengaluru flight AI 174 without going through the mandatory breathalyser test. He did not even take the test after landing in Bengaluru.

Delhi-NCR air pollution level today: AQI remains 'Unhealthy', all hopes pinned on artificial rain

Agency
New Delhi, Nov. 22

The air pollution levels in the national capital region remained mostly in the 'Very Unhealthy' and 'Unhealthy' category and Delhi Institute of Tool Engineering (DITE), Wazirpur, recorded 'Hazardous' levels in Delhi-NCR. The Air Quality Index

(AQI) at DITE was 437 while National Institute of Malaria Research, Sector 8, Dwarka AQI touched 324. Apart from these two hotbeds of hazardous air, the other parts of Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Noida and Faridabad recorded AQI in the range of 180-288 (PM 10). The risk of permanent respiratory damage to

millions of citizens in the national capital region has prompted the Ministry of Environment to bring in motion a plan to induce artificial rain to unclog Delhi's choked lungs. In a first, scientists are mulling over the concept of cloud seeding so that rains can be employed to clear air that has been turned into a lethal concoction by

human activities. The key contributors to the alarming pollution levels in the Delhi-NCR are vehicular pollution and construction activities. The practise of stubble burning in the neighbouring states of Haryana and Punjab has compounded the problem, turning the region into a literal gas chamber to millions of residents.

As per a World Health Organisation (WHO) survey, Delhi has consistently recorded the worst air quality among all major cities of the planet and it poses a very real permanent health risk to the citizens. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has termed the situation as a medical emergency and has sought prompt action by the government.

Protest march at Mumbai's Azad Maidan

Agency
Mumbai, Nov. 22

More than 10,000 farmers and tribals continued their march for the second day on Thursday on their final stretch till Mumbai's Azad Maidan demanding for the implementation of the measures promised by the state government last year. The agitators left at 5am according to their schedule despite Mumbai Police insisting that they

leave an hour earlier to avoid traffic in the city. They were supposed to reach Azad Maidan around 11am to hold a protest rally. A 30-member delegation will then meet chief minister Devendra Fadnis to put forth their demands. The farmers, who are struggling to cope with the drought, are demanding the proper implementation of the loan waiver package announced by Fadnis in

2017; the implementation of recommendations of the MS Swaminathan Commission that suggested 50% minimum support price (MSP) for crops; land rights for tribal farmers and also compensation for farm labourers. The protesters from across Maharashtra, under the banner of Lok Sangharsh Morcha, have crossed Parel-Lalbaug and reached JJ Road flyover. There is a

heavy morning rush towards south Mumbai and a portion of the flyover has been kept free for vehicles. The flyover on the opposite side is closed for vehicles for the protesters. Apart from the farmers, supporters of the Aam Aadmi Party and some Mumbai based social groups are also participating in the march. The farmers and tribals had gathered at the Anand

Nagar octroi naka in Mulund since Tuesday night. After marching for close to 19km, they halted for the night at Somaiya Ground in Sion. State water resources minister Girish Mahajan met the farmers at Sion and said the chief minister will meet the agitators. He said all the concerned ministers and officials will be present in the meeting and a solution will be worked out.



By a correspondent
New Delhi, Nov 22,

Two Indians, M.C. Mary Kom and Lovlina Borghain, are in fray for their final bouts in the 10th Women's World Boxing Championships here today. The Indians cannot get a better chance than this one at home conditions as four of their pugilists have entered the medal rounds. But a lot depends on the celebrated Mary Kom, having already become the most successful boxer in history by assuring herself of a seventh medal, to give the kind of start like she did on Tuesday for the young India brigade to follow suit. Undoubtedly, all eyes will be on the 35-year-old when she enters the ring at the JD Jhadav Hall for her semifinal bout against North Korean Kim Hyang Mi.

The Indian had beaten Kim in her last meeting in the Asian Championships but the Manipuri veteran is confident. Like she said during the quarterfinal victory over Chinese Wu Yu, all bouts in the world championships are tough. But what weighs things in her favour is her sheer experience.

"I am confident. I also know when to drop guard and when to attack. I have worked with the coaches and have a plan in place to counter her," was how Mary described about tomorrow's semifinals, after a strenuous practice session yesterday. The North Korean's USP is her aggression and quick movement as one witnessed on Tuesday when she pummeled her South Korean opponent, Chorong Bak, who was a favourite before the quarterfinals. A lot of hope hinges on Mary Kom, who is chasing her sixth world title. Equally important will be Lovlina Borghain's performance as India will hope the young pugilist to progress into the next round. The Welter category (69 kg) boxer had done extremely well throughout the championships and was particularly good against Australia's Kaye Frances Scott, a CWG bronze medal winner, in the quarterfinals. The Assamese boxer gets her chance to avenge her only loss to the Chinese Taipei opponent, Chen Nien-Chin. But Lovlina feels she has matured as a

boxer and can think on her feet now. "I was inexperienced last time when I took on her. But I now know how to tackle her. I did watch some of the video clips to know her style of boxing," said 21-year-old who has displayed a perfect mix of caution with aggression so far. Two other Indians in fray, Sonia (57 kg) and Simranjit Kaur (64 kg) have their semifinals on Friday. But will be present at the venue to cheer both Mary Kom and Lovlina along with the rest of the squad. Both Sonia and Simranjit said they were prepared for Friday's bout. "I have beaten my North Korean opponent (Jo Son Hwa) once before. But both of us know about each other's style, but I am confident of winning because I have worked with the coaches on strategies," said Sonia. As for Simranjit, she said she was equally prepared, before she went for the practice. "I have worked hard and am prepared well for my bout," she said. In today's semifinals, bouts in five weight categories (48, 54, 60, 69, 81) will take place while the remaining five are slated for Friday.

Attention readers

Imphal Times is looking for a desk editor and two reporters, who are well experience in the field of print media and who can write English and can read Manipuri. We are also looking for distributors on paid basis. Working hour for distributors will be from 4 to 7 pm, while working hour for Desk editor will be 12 pm to 4 pm. For reporter dateline for submitting story is 2.30 pm. Interested candidates can contact the Editor, Imphal Times during office hour or email their application along with their bio-data at imphaltimes@gmail.com. One good news - Imphal Times is resuming 4 pages. Besides, Imphal Times is also opening coaching for students wanted to choose the profession earliest by December 2018. Limited seats - first come first candidate will be given opportunity.

Sd/-
Manager