

CEO SPEAK



Mark Clive
General Secretary & CEO

A short walk from my residence in staff quarters to my office is thought provoking. The dried and brown fallen leaves all over make me think of intricacies of life. How we wait for trees to turn green again and bloom. This is true in life too. Whatever comes has to go, giving way to something beautiful coming in future. February - March are the months when we spend time in brainstorming to plan programmes and business activities, budgeting etc. for the year ahead. I am looking forward to something beautiful coming our way also. There are pointers in that direction. Spate of admissions in the education department, YMCA Public School and regular bookings at Saatal Campsite are a positive sign of New Delhi YMCA's revival after the epidemic.

The celebrations of International Women's Day by the department of Social and Human Development (SHD) were a major highlight of the fortnight gone by. All five Community Development Centres of SHD took part in a cultural show to mark the day. At Kalyanpuri Centre, SHO of the area Inspector Daya Sagar, was all praise for NDY and assured all possible help from Delhi Police. At NDY campus too, women employees celebrated the day by organising the Monday Staff Prayer Fellowship. It was an all-woman show. The Staff Cricket Tournament was, however, an all-male affair, hoping women employees will take to the crease next year!

In all this, there were also sad moments for us. We lost four colleagues in a short span of 15 days. Raaj Dayal, businessman George Muthoot and Brig C Jacob were all members of New Delhi YMCA.

We also lost Melvin Louis, a former General Secretary of Bombay YMCA and a popular figure in the Y Movement for his camping skills. NDY is saddened by the loss and we pray for the bereaved families.

God Bless

Mark



NDY WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Delhi Police assures all help



The annual International Women's Day celebrations by the department of Social and Human Development on March 8 again marked an important milestone in New Delhi YMCA history. Like every year, cultural pageantry and strong messages marked the day with felicitation of many women achievers in the



extended NDY family.
SHO Kalyanpuri, Delhi Police
Inspector Daya Sagar, Aam



Aadmi Party Counsellor Dharendra Kumar and area MLA Kuldip Kumar were among distinguished guest who attended the event at Kalyan Puri Community Hall.

SHD Committee Chairman, Mr Vijay Russell and Committee member Rev Morrison Rose attended the function at the Community Centre while President Mr Jovial Vaghela and General Secretary Mr Mark Clive, among others attended the event online.

Speaking on the occasion SHO Ins Daya Sagar complimented New Delhi YMCA and assured all possible help from Delhi Police. "In my area (Kalyan Puri) this kind of work is very important and women need to understand their rights. We have a counselling centre also and you can come any time for help," he assured the women present there.

President Mr Jovial Vaghela asked women to have confidence among themselves while Mr Vijay Russell wondered if there was a need to celebrate Men's Day considering women had emerged so strongly. ■



Meanwhile, for a change, men took back seat at NDY on International Women's Day. The Monday Staff Prayer Fellowship on the day was all women affair. After the opening prayer by Rachel John (HR) and the congregational hymn, Leelamma Saji (Corporate Office) did

the Bible reading and delivered the message.

Jyoti Micah (Tourist Hostel) said the Intercessory prayer and Sapna Bhardwaj (Corporate Office) said the closing prayer. The Service was conducted by Meenakshi Joseph (Tourist Hostel). ■



MARY KOM ELECTED TO HEAD WORLD BOXING PANEL

Boxing superstar Mary Kom has been elected as the chairperson of the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) champions and veterans committee, a panel created last year by the world body as part of its reforms.

The 37-year-old London Olympic bronze-medallist was named for the position by the AIBA's board of directors.

The six-time world champion Mary Kom is already an ambassador of the International Boxing Association. Popularly known as 'Magnificent Mary', the Manipuri athlete is also a Member of Rajya Sabha.

"With great pleasure I inform you that you have been selected to serve as the chairperson of the AIBA Champions and Veteran Committee following the mail vote by the board of directors of AIBA," AIBA President Umar Kremlev said in a

letter to the decorated boxer.

"I am confident with your vast knowledge and experience you will make a valuable contribution to the success of this important committee," he added.

The committee, formed in December last year, "consists of most respected worldwide boxing veterans and champions who have achieved significant results and who are ready to share their experience."

Mary Kom has qualified for her second Olympics — the Tokyo Games in July-August this year. ■



IN MEMORIAM

RAAJ DAYAL: New Delhi YMCA mourns the passing away of NDY member, Raaj Dayal on March 1. A younger brother of former Vice President, John Dayal. RIP Raaj.



GEORGE MUTHOOT: Chairman of the Muthoot Group, George Muthoot died on Friday, 5th March. A senior NDY member, he was 72. RIP George Muthoot.



MELVIN LOUIS: New Delhi YMCA family is saddened with the passing of Melvin Louis, a popular figure in the YMCA Movement. A former General Secretary of Bombay YMCA, Very popular with the young people, Melvin was a talented sportsperson and adventurer. He loved basketball and camping. RIP Melvin.



BRIG C JACOB: NDY member, Brig C Jacob passed away on 12th March. RIP Brig



Corrigendum: In the Volume 13 of NDY Today it was erroneously mentioned that Enosh Nathaniel Prem went to be with the Lord on February 15. It should actually read February 17.

The error is regreted - Ed

Thank you

Dear friends,
Please accept our grateful thanks for your words of consolation and your prayers when we lost my youngest brother Raaj, a celebrated photojournalist who once headed the photo media of the Indian Express group. We buried him in our father's grave. He is safe in the hands of both his earthly parents and our Heavenly father. God be with each one of you and your families.

— John Dayal

UP GOVT. HONOURS CASA FOR EXEMPLARY WORK IN STATE

Uttar Pradesh Government has honoured CASA for its exemplary work in the battle against Covid-19 in the State. Church's Auxiliary for Social Action or CASA has been acknowledged with the "Corona Warrior" honour by the UP Government.

Sushant Agrawal, Director CASA, received the award and extended heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders and volunteers, who have made the Covid-19 response a successful programme and are continuing it for sustaining the marginalised through the hard times. The appreciation certificate was issued on 18th February.

With the outbreak of the fatal Covid-19 infection, CASA sleeved up to disseminate immediate response to mitigate the crisis. As the nationwide lockdown was declared in March 2020, CASA prioritised channelising its efforts through local volunteers and leaders to quickly reach out to the subjugated communities.

An extensive response program was conducted to provide the marginalised families with relief including dry ration kits and hygiene materials.



CASA also offered the community thorough guidance on observing the precautionary measures against COVID19.

Women's cause was actively taken up with expansive awareness initiatives against domestic violence. In collaboration with partners, CASA conducted health camps to provide inexpensive healthcare check-ups.

Families with small landholding were availed of seeds and equipment to cultivate their farms and support their sustenance through the pandemic.

Established in 1947, CASA is a New Delhi-based non-religious Indian development organisation and a service wing of the National Council of Churches in India. ■

MEMBERS SPEAK

● Sorry to hear the sudden demise of Mr. Melvin Louis. May his soul rest in peace as he has left for his heavenly abode. May God give His supernatural peace to all family members
— Dr. Sanjeet Singh

● May the Gracious Lord Solace Bereaved Family of Late Mr Melvin Louis! R.I.P
— Rev. Dr V. K. Singh

● RIP Melvin Louis
— Issac John

● Shockingly disheartening news! My sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Melvin Louis. May God Almighty give them immense strength and courage

at this hour, to tide over the irreparable loss. With prayers and sympathy.

— Gaurav Mukherjee

● Sadly noted the passing away of Melvin Louis. May his soul Rest in peace. Amen
— Edattukaran Korath Jose

● May the noble departed soul rest in peace. Our most heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of Melvin Louis.
— J F Williams

● Sad news. My sincere condolences to the bereaved family of George Muthoot
— Rohit David

● My sincere condolences to the bereaved families of the departed souls
— Ernest Joseph

BBC AWARD FOR HUMPY

Chess player Koneru Humpy has won the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award for 2020, following a public vote.

The 33-year-old beat sprinter Dutee Chand, airgun shooter Manu Bhaker, wrestler Vinesh Phogat and hockey captain Rani Rampal to the award.

Humpy is the World Rapid Chess champion having won the title in December 2019 after a two-year maternity break. In 2020, she won the Cairns Cup, an elite-level tournament for the top female players.

"Being an indoor game, chess doesn't get as much attention as sports like cricket gets in India. But with this award, I hope the game will draw people's attention," she said after winning the honour. ■



SPORTING JACKS AND JANES OF NDY



“All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy,” goes the saying. According to Wikipedia, the saying means that without time off from work, a person becomes both bored and boring. The exact origins of the phrase remain unclear, though it was recorded as early as 1659.

The staff at the New Delhi YMCA takes the saying rather too seriously. The recent Inter-Department Table Tennis Tournament and later, the cricket tournament proved it too well. Both events generated a lot of bonhomie and camaraderie among the staff on the playfield and those sitting on the fence.

The week-long Inter-Department Cricket Tournament, was a fun event interspersed with some serious cricket. And like at all level of cricket, this tournament also had its shares of ‘controversies’. But in the true spirit of the game, a controversial match was replayed in a total spirit of sportsmanship. At the end, Tourist Hostel ‘B’ team defeated their A counterparts by



one wicket to emerge this year’s champions. Bashir Ahmed was declared Man-of-the-match for claiming three wickets. Dheeraj got a special prize for hitting a maximum number of sixes, while Varun Kumar was declared man of the tournament. The tournament is in running for

close to three decades! Nine teams from various departments participated in the tournament.

After the final, the winners Tourist Hostel ‘B’ hosted a lunch for the participating teams. Going by the popularity of cricket in India, one wonders why women staff mem-

bers did not play in the tournament even as they did participate in the Table Tennis Tournament. It will not be a bad idea to include at least one woman player in each team in the future tournaments. Otherwise it might made ‘Janes’ dull girls! Are you listening organisers? ■

SERENA WILLIAMS SUPPORTS MEGHAN

Tennis superstar Serena Williams says she understands the “pain and cruelty” suffered by Meghan, the wife of Prince Harry, after Meghan told Oprah Winfrey that an unnamed member of the royal family raised the issue of how dark their unborn baby Archie’s skin would be while she was pregnant.

There were several “concerns and conversations about how dark his skin might be when he was born,” Meghan told Winfrey. Serena wrote on Twitter that she knew “first-hand the sexism and racism institutions and the media use to vilify women and people of colour.”

The headlines Meghan has generated offer one of the most powerful messages the world could be absorbing on the International Women’s Day. Diana’s death at 36, should have taken some of the lustre off the popular notion that marrying a handsome prince is the ticket to bliss. ■

An orangutan named Karen, the first in the world to have open-heart surgery in 1994, has made medical history again: She’s among the first great apes to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

In February, Karen, three other orangutans, and five bonobos at the San Diego Zoo have received two doses each of an experimental vaccine for animals developed by a veterinary pharmaceutical company, says Nadine Lamberski, chief conservation and wildlife health officer at the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.

“This isn’t the norm. In my career, I haven’t had access to an experimental vaccine this early in the process and haven’t had such an overwhelming desire to want to use one,” Lamberski says.

Conservationists are concerned about the threat of Covid-19 to great apes.

Covid-19 vaccine jab for apes too!

They are particularly worried about the danger to gorillas, which have populations that are listed as critically endangered on the IUCN red list.

“This isn’t the norm,” Nadine Lamberski, chief conservation officer at the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, has told the



National Geographic.

“In my career, I haven’t had access to an experimental vaccine this early in the process and haven’t had such an overwhelming desire to want to use one,”

Karen, the first orangutan in the world to have open-heart surgery in 1994, was among those to get a jab.

Ms Lamberski said the apes had not suffered any adverse reactions and would soon be tested for antibodies to determine if the shots were a success.

Cases of the virus have also been found in animals at other zoos, including lions and tigers in the Bronx Zoo in New York, and lions at Barcelona Zoo in Spain.

Covid-19 infections have been confirmed in various animals worldwide, from dogs and cats to ferrets and mink. However, cases are generally quite rare. ■

“PLEASE PRAY FOR US,” SAYS THAZIN FROM MYANMAR AS YMCA SECRETARY IS ARRESTED

Those who attended the NDY's International Youth Festival two years ago, would remember Thazin Aye, the talented singer from Myanmar. Thazin had rocked the closing ceremony function with her scintillating performance.

A warm and an extremely friendly person, Thazin had made numerous friends on her maiden India visit and has remained in touch with each one of them. Now a YMCA Secretary, she is leading the anti-military protests on the streets of Mandalay, the second-largest city in Myanmar.

Three of Thazin's colleagues - Nyein Nyein Myat, Phyo Thiri and Su Su Kaing – were arrested, but thankfully released. But Ronnie Lyan, the General Secretary of Hakha YMCA, remains under arrest since 10th February. Thazin has requested YMCA fraternity in India to pray for her



and her colleagues, specially Ronnie.

About 300 refugees from a Christian minority community from Myanmar have also held a demonstration in New Delhi against last month's military takeover in their country.

“We are calling on the international community and the government of India to secure the release of those imprisoned



and the handover of power to a civilian controlled parliament,” James Fanai, President of the Chin Refugee Committee said.

Two-thirds of the worldwide YMCA leadership which met online last week, has also taken serious note of the political developments in Myanmar. “Our thoughts are with our colleagues in YMCA Myanmar, where we have been present for 70 years in Yangon and in 17 local YMCAs across the country, serving an estimated 120,000 people every year,” said Carlos Sanvee, Secretary-General of World YMCA.

“We keep Ronnie and his family, and all the young people of Myanmar, in our prayers, and continue to do all that we can to secure Ronnie's release,” added Sanvee. ■

GANGSTER-TURNED-PASTOR IN CHINA TO SAVE ABANDONED BABIES

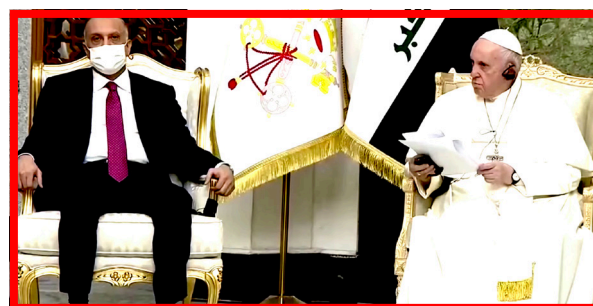
At the orphanage, I held him in my arms and prayed. While I prayed, I was moved by the Holy Spirit: This is your inheritance.” Pastor Yu Pandong, a pastor in Sanya, China's southernmost Hainan Province, recalled the first scene vividly when he adopted his son Tian'en.

After he visited the orphanage, Yu went home to pray and discuss with his wife and eldest daughter. The family unanimously decided to give the abandoned baby, about seven or eight months old, a home.



After the adoption procedures, Pastor Yu and his family began to try their best to treat their adopted son Tian'en, who suffered from thalassemia. It took nearly four years and cost more than 1 million yuan. Thankfully, his son had a successful bone marrow transplant and recovered.

Pastor Yu said that he believed God gives the best, and even if his son eventually left the world, he would not regret it. “I want my son to know that we will not abandon him,” he said. Earlier he used to be part of a “reckless society” in Northeast China, which was a gang of people who wandered about without clear direction. ■



POPE FRANCIS VISITS CHURCHES DESTROYED BY ISIS IN NORTHERN IRAQ

Pope Francis arrived in northern Iraq on Sunday, to pray in the ruins of churches damaged or destroyed by Islamic State extremists and celebrate an open-air mass on the last day of the first-ever papal visit to the country.

The Vatican hopes that the landmark visit will rally the country's Christian communities and encourage them to stay despite decades of war and instability. Pope Francis has also delivered a message of tolerance and fraternity between religions to Muslim leaders, including in a historic meeting with



Iraq's top Shia cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

Francis headed to the northern city of Mosul, which was heavily damaged in the war against Isis, to pray for Iraq's war victims. In a scene unimaginable just four years ago, he mounted a stage in a city square surrounded by the remnants of four damaged churches belonging to some of Iraq's myriad Christian rites and denominations. A jubilant crowd welcomed him.

Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani told Pope Francis that the country's Christians should

live in “peace”.

The meeting, on the second day of the first-ever papal visit to Iraq, marked a landmark moment in modern religious history and in terms of Francis's efforts to deepen interfaith dialogue.

The 84-year-old pontiff's trip to Iraq is an effort to both reassure the country's ancient but dwindling Christian community and expand his dialogue with other faiths.

“This trip is emblematic,” he said, calling it “a duty to a land martyred for many years.” ■

WORLD YMCA ASSURANCE TO MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

tary, echoing a Movement-wide commitment to do whatever it takes, for however long it takes.

“It's a remarkable achievement for two-thirds of the global YMCA Movement leadership to come together like this and find such common purpose and joy in each other's company”, said Patricia Pelton, President of the World YMCA. “But all agreed that we need to see each other in person – God willing, we will soon be able to do so.”



Henrietta Fore, Executive Director with Unicef, used a video message to say: “Let's work together across the UNICEF and YMCA families.” ■