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NEWS CAPSULE

2 ultras shot

SKINAGAR, Sept 10: Security forces today killed two Hizbul Mujahideen militants in an overnight encounter in the Baraigh area of Shopian district of Kashmir while the third surrendered, making it the first case of arrest during a gunfight in several years. — PTI

Priest killed

KOKRAJHAR, Sept 10: Unidentified rebels on Sunday killed a 56-year-old priest Nikhil Debnath, who was also a lottery agent, late Saturday night on the daily market Sani Mandir premises here and decapitated with Rs 2.30 lakh and two gold chains. — Correspondent

Arms peddler

MANGALMALLI, Sept 10: Dhula police on Saturday night apprehended one Anbus Ali of Borbari Sanuwa village and recovered two country-made pistols and eight rounds of ammunition from the suspected arms peddler. — Correspondent

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People wading through flooded NH-15 at Balipara in Sonitpur district on Sunday. — UB Photos

Floods submerge 19 villages in Chariduar

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, Sept 10: Following incessant rains since yesterday evening, the swelling waters of Jorakhor river have thrown life out of gear in Balipara and Chariduar areas today, submerging a total of 19 villages prompting villagers to take shelter in safe places.

Today's wave of flood has caused

major damage in the greater Chariduar area submerging as many as 19 villages — Bagmari, Khelemati, Panipota, Kholihamari, Digalghar, Uluberi, Natumati, Kalapahar, Bakula, Oihola, Bogjuli, Bhubular, Thakaraboga, Bakula, Morikuthi, Dhekeraigaon, Udmanir and Kamargaoa. The premises of (See page 7)

Agri scientists call for effective adaptation strategy

SIVASISH THAKUR

GUWAHATI, Sept 10: With floods hitting the State with increasing frequency and causing substantial crop damage, agriculture scientists have called for an effective adaptation strategy to mitigate the flood-induced damage.

As the floods occur in numerous waves and the nature and extent of damage varies, the adaptation approach and contingency plan may also accordingly vary.

The problems that arise during flood time range from deficit of seedlings for planting, sali rice and rice seedlings (surviving the flood damage) getting over-aged due to the

delayed time to damage of the transplanted rice at different stages of growth.

"Depending on the time of flood occurrence, the farmers can choose high-yielding improved rice varieties with appropriate duration, including early-maturing varieties. The duration of the varieties

should be such that the varieties must come to flowering within October," Dr PK Pathak, Associate Director of Research, Assam Agricultural University (AAU), told *The Assam Tribune*.

In situations where flood water may submerge the

(See page 7)

farmers' inability to transplant the seedlings within the stip-

Board says no to Gohpur-Numaligarh railway bridge

RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

GUWAHATI, Sept 10: A railway bridge is not required at the proposed four-lane bridge to be constructed by the NHIDCL over the Brahmaputra between Gohpur and Numaligarh, the Railway Board has said, citing proposals of

two other railway bridges on the river — one between Silghat and Tezpur and another on the Jorhat-Gogamukh new line.

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways had sent an inception report of the Gohpur-Numaligarh four-lane bridge project to the Railways to explore the possibility of constructing a rail-cum-road bridge in the

(See page 7)

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Bangladesh seeks India's support over Rohingya crisis

DAKA, Sept 10: Bangladesh today sought India's support in handling the Rohingya issue by mounting pressure on Myanmar to take back the refugees who have taken shelter in the country.

According to the United Nations, nearly 300,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled Myanmar's Rakhine state into Bangladesh since August 25 when a fresh wave of violence erupted when militants attacked police posts in Myanmar's northern Rakhine state. — PTI

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Financial irregularities in BTC come to light

CAG SPECIAL AUDIT REPORT

R DUTTA CHOUDHURY

GUWAHATI, Sept 10: Serious financial irregularities and rampant flouting of financial rules by the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) have come to light in a special audit carried out by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG). Even the receipts from the State government were not recorded properly. Moreover, the Council did not

Council did not have any internal audit mechanism, which resulted in total financial mismanagement

have any internal audit mechanism, which resulted in total financial mismanagement, while the guidelines for implementation of various schemes, including the Central schemes for the welfare of the tribal people,

were blatantly violated.

The CAG carried out a special audit of the accounts of the BTC for the period from 2008-09 to 2013-14 and detected large scale irregularities and pointed out that the revenue receipts varied widely every year, which was unusual. In deviation of the procedure for the preparation of head of account-wise plan budget estimates for entrusted subjects of the BTC,

annual accounts. No receipt from the State government with corresponding expenditure was classified and exhibited under capital allocation during the period from 2010-14. Reasons for such inconsistencies were not explained by the BTC by way of explanatory notes in the annual accounts.

The report pointed out that there were discrepancies between the State appropriation accounts and the annual accounts of the BTC. The monthly accounts of expenditure were submitted to the AG showing headwise expenditure incurred by the BTC. (See page 7)

On The Assam Tribune @ Campus
A career in Mobile App Development
Baby Pathak
Common mistakes in writing blogs
Mirakshi Mishra
Meet our IT Guru
Manish Baruah
Q&A Career
And many more...

US-backed force makes sweeping advance in east Syria: monitor

BEIRUT, Sept 10: US-backed fighters made a sweeping advance against jihadists today in Syria's eastern Deir Ezzor province, capturing territory just kilometres from the provincial capital, a monitor said.

Oil-rich Deir Ezzor province borders Iraq and is a strategic prize for both the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and Russian-supported government troops.

The SDF announced yesterday it had begun clearing the Islamic State group from areas east of the Euphrates River, which cuts diagonally across the province.

By today, fighters from the SDF's Deir Ezzor Military Council (DMC) had seized much of the province's northeast, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

"They seized control of a hilltop seven kilometres (four miles) from the eastern banks of the Euphrates, across the river from Deir Ezzor city," said Rami Abdel Rahman, who heads the Britain-based monitor.

He attributed the quick gains to the fact that "eastern parts of Deir Ezzor are desert and not densely populated."

The DEMC's advance is being backed by the US-led coalition that had been bombing IS in Iraq and Syria since 2014 while the regime's push on the city is being supported by its Russian allies. — AFP

Youngest pilot to fly around the world sets Guinness record

MELBOURNE, Sept 10: An 18-year-old pilot in Australia has set the Guinness World Record for being the youngest person to take a solo trip around the globe in an aircraft.

On July 4 last year, Lachlan Smart from Australia took off in a Cirrus SR22 aircraft and completed the history-making journey at Sunshine Coast Airport, Queensland, Australia on August 27, aged just 18 years 234 days.

The announcement comes after an extensive evidence review process that involved checking the

GPS data for the entire journey, all take-off and landing times, multiple witness statements and video footage, the Guinness World Records said.

Smart stopped in 24 locations in 15 different countries during his seven-week flight, and covered 45,000 kilometres.

"My mission is to inspire youth to dream big and to follow their dreams, giving confidence to others so they can achieve their full potential and do what they may otherwise only dare to dream about," said Smart, before embarking on the flight.

The previous record holder was Matthew Githmiller from the US, who was aged 19 years 10 months 15 days when he achieved the title back in 2014. — PTI

Nepal focused on increasing connectivity with China: Mahara

BEIJING, Sept 10: Nepal's Foreign Minister Krishna Bahadur Mahara today called for more Chinese investments in the Himalayan nation, saying Kathmandu is focused on increasing connectivity with Beijing.

Inaugurating the newly-established office of the Consulate General of Nepal at the port city of Guangzhou in China, Mahara, who is also the deputy prime minister, said: "there are good opportunities for investments in inter-country railways, roads and transmission lines".

"Nepal is focusing on investment in infrastructure development and inter-country economic sector in order to increase connectivity between both the countries," the visiting Nepalese leader said.

He also expressed belief that the office will contribute in strengthening bilateral ties and broaden relations in the economic sector. Nepal's foreign ministry said.

Mahara said that economic and trade activities will surge with the establishment of the consulate. — PTI



Afghan Muslim protesters shout slogans during the Muslims' protest against the persecution of Rohingya Muslim minority in Kabul. — UNI

N Korea's global threat requires global response: NATO chief

LONDON, Sept 10: NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said today that North Korea's nuclear and missile programme represented a "global threat and requires a global response".

In an interview with the BBC, he also refused to say whether an attack on the Pacific US territory of Guam would trigger the military alliance's collective defence clause.

"The reckless behaviour of North Korea is a global threat and requires a global response, and that of course also includes NATO," Stoltenberg told "The Andrew Marr Show".

"We call on Korea to abandon its nuclear



In

programmes, it's missile programmes, and to refrain from more testing, because this is a blatant violation of several UN security resolutions and it's a threat to international peace and stability."

Asked whether a strike against Guam would be covered under the clause that commits NATO members to come to the defence of each other, he said: "I will not speculate about whether Article Five will be applied in such a situation.

"What I will say is we are now totally focused on how can we contribute to a peaceful solution of the conflict." — AFP

US historian who tried to save Afghanistan's heritage dies

KABUL, Sept 10: American historian Nancy Hatch Dupree, who dedicated most of her life to preserving Afghanistan's heritage, died in a Kabul hospital today aged 89.

Dupree first arrived in the Afghan capital in 1962 as the wife of a diplomat. In the city she met her second husband, the late American archaeologist Louis Dupree, and developed a lifelong passion for the Muslim country.

Over the next five decades she travelled throughout the country, wrote five guidebooks and documented the war-torn nation's past.

Her death was confirmed by Waheed Wafa, executive director of the Afghanistan Center at Kabul University where tens of thousands of documents preserved by the Duprees are kept. Many Afghans took to Twitter to pay tribute to Dupree - sometimes referred to as Afghanistan's "grandmother" - who was widely respected for her efforts to safeguard the country's history and culture.

"Very saddened by the death of #NancyDupree. Afghans value and respect her services of decades for #Afghanistan. Nancy will be missed! RIP," wrote Afghanistan's Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah.

Activist Marian Wardak posted: "You were a blessing, your work will remain a treasure,

you are loved and will be missed by the people of Afghanistan."

"The incredible Nancy Hatch Dupree has passed, 50 years dedicated to preserving Afghanistan's historical docs & artifacts #Kabul #Afghanistan," wrote actress Fereshta Kazemi.

US special charge d'affaires Hugo Llorenas,

America's top diplomat in Afghanistan in the absence of an ambassador, said Dupree had been a "pillar of the American community in Afghanistan" and would be "forever remembered".

Dupree and her husband lived in Afghanistan until the late 1970s when they were forced to leave by the communist government.

They spent time in the Pakistani city of Peshawar helping Afghan refugees fleeing the conflict during the Soviet occupation of 1979-89 and collecting documents relating to Afghanistan.

Dupree's husband died in 1989 and she moved back to Afghanistan after the US-led invasion that toppled the ruling Taliban in 2001.

With the help of the new government, Dupree created a centre to preserve the couple's priceless collection of records for researchers. — AFP

Nancy Hatch Dupree

in the Teknaf, said on Friday he was aware of at least three Rohingyas injured in explosions.

Myanmar accused of laying mines after refugee injuries

COX'S BAZAR (Bangladesh), Sept 10: Myanmar's military has been accused of planting land mines in the path of Rohingya Muslims fleeing violence in its western Rakhine state, with Amnesty International reporting two people wounded today.

Refugee accounts of the latest spasm of violence in Rakhine have typically shooting by soldiers and arson attacks on villages.

But there are at least several cases that point to anti-personnel land mines or other explosives as the cause of injuries on the border with Bangladesh, where 300,000 Rohingyas have fled in the past two weeks.

AP reporters on the Bangladeshi side of the border on Monday saw an elderly woman with devastating leg wounds: one leg with the calf apparently blown off and the other also badly injured. Relatives said she had stepped on a land mine.

Myanmar has one of the few militaries, along with North Korea and Syria, that has openly used anti-personnel land mines in recent years, according to Amnesty. An international treaty in 1997 outlawed the use of weapons including land mines.

Tal Col SM Ariful Islam, commanding officer of the Bangladesh border guard in Teknaf, said on Friday he was aware of at least three Rohingyas injured in explosions.

Bangladeshi officials and Amnesty researchers believe new explosives have been recently planted, including one that the rights group said blew off a Bangladeshi farmer's leg and another that wounded a Rohingya man. Both incidents occurred today. It said at least three people including two children were injured in the past week.

"It may not be land mines, but I know there have been isolated cases of Myanmar soldiers planting explosives three to four days ago," Ariful said Friday.

Myanmar Presidential spokesman Zarni Htay did not answer phone calls seeking comment today. Military spokesman Myat Min Oo said he couldn't comment without talking to his superiors. A major at the Border Guard Police headquarters in northern Maungdaw near the Bangladeshi border also refused to comment.

Amnesty said that based on interviews with eyewitnesses and analysis by its own weapons experts, it believes there is "targeted use of landmines" along a narrow stretch of the north-western border of Rakhine state that is a crossing point for fleeing Rohingya. — AP

Taliban, ISIS abduct 35 civilians in Afghanistan

KABUL, Sept 10: As many as 35 civilians have been kidnapped by militants of the ISIS and Taliban in northern Afghanistan's Jawzjan province, locals said on Sunday.

"Both ISIS and the Taliban have created checkpoints along the way between Qush Tapa and Darzab districts of the province, arresting individuals on charges of having links with the other side, and recently 35 people, all civilians, have been taken hostage by the two rival groups," a local resident was quoted as saying by Xinhua.

Meanwhile, Nasimullah Jamshidi, the press officer of the 200th Shah-een Corps of the Afghan National Army, confirmed the incident, saying he had received such a report.

Fighting has escalated in Afghanistan as the Taliban insurgency spreads from its traditional strongholds in the south and east to the once peaceful region in the north, where the militants have been recruiting from among the youth. — IANS

\$152-mn ADB loan for Nepal power project

KATHMANDU, Sept 10: The Asian Development Bank will provide a USD 152 million to Nepal for the implementation and enhancement of its power transmission and distribution, officials said here today.

The Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Nepal's Ministry of Finance signed the loan agreement in Kathmandu.

The aid will be granted to the Power Transmission and Distribution Efficiency Enhancement Project (PTDEEP) which supports expansion of the transmission lines in various areas of Nepal and enhancement of the distribution efficiency in the northern part of Kathmandu, according to a statement issued by the ministry.

The project, having a 4 to 5-year completion period, would incorporate various components such as construction of transmission lines, upgrading sub-stations in Barabise, Laphishepi, Khimti and Chagapauwa areas and the rehabilitation and capacity enhancement of distribution system in Kharananda Valley.

Similarly, ADB has also agreed to provide USD 21 million policy-based assistance to the government of Nepal.

The loan would be utilised in the implementation of South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation's (SAARC) customs reforms and modernisation for trade facilitation programme. — PTI

Suicide bomber hits central Somalia town, kills 4

MOGADISHU, Sept 10: A Somali police officer says a suicide bomber blew himself up near a government office in a central Somalia town today, killing at least four people.

Col Sabrie Ahmed said the bomber apparently intended to enter the regional administration's headquarters in Beledweyne, the provincial capital of Hirran province, but instead detonated an explosive belt strapped around his waist in a teashop outside the offices.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast. However, Somalia's Islamic extremist insurgents, al-Shabab, often carry out such attacks. — AP



Parents of Lebanese soldiers who were killed in ISIS captivity, hold Lebanese flags as they attend official funeral ceremony at the Ministry of Defence in Yarze village, east of Beirut, Lebanon. — UNI

Nine alien planets in position to spot Earth: study

LONDON, Sept 10: In a bid to find how alien observers might be able to detect Earth, scientists have found that at least nine exoplanets are ideally placed to observe the transit of our world.

Scientists from Queen's University Belfast in the UK and the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research in Germany turned exoplanet-hunting on its head, by looking for alien planet that can spot the Earth.

Researchers identified parts of the distant sky from where various planets in our Solar System could be seen to pass in front of the Sun.

They concluded that the planets Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars are actually much more likely to be spotted than the more distant 'Jovian' planets Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune, despite their much larger size.

"Larger planets would naturally block out more light as they pass in front of their star," said Robert Wells, a PhD student at Queen's University Belfast.

"However the more important factor is actually how close the planet is to its parent star - since the terrestrial planets are much closer to the Sun than the gas giants, they'll be more likely to be seen in transit," said Wells, lead author of the study published in the journal Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society.

To look for worlds where civilisations would have the best chance of spotting our Solar System, the astronomers looked for parts of the sky from which more than one planet could be seen to cross the face of the Sun.

They found that three planets at most could be observed from anywhere outside of the Solar System, and that not all combinations of three planets are possible.

"We estimate that a randomly positioned observer would have roughly a 1 in 40 chance of observing at least one planet," said Katja Poppenhaeger, from Queen's Uni-

versity Belfast.

"The probability of detecting at least two planets would be about ten times lower, and to detect three would be a further ten times smaller than this," said Poppenhaeger. — PTI





Agri officials asked to take steps to combat army worms

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 10: The Agriculture Department has directed all officials to take steps to contain any adverse effect from army worms.

In a letter to District Agriculture Officers and other officials, the department said that army worms or swarming caterpillars have manifested in different areas of the State.

Steps like deployment of spraying squads in affected areas have been directed. It said that sufficient plant protection chemicals like quinophos, comma chloroprophos and malathion powder have been made available to all the affected districts.

The Directorate of Agriculture has already set up a control room headed by AC Kamakar, Joint Director, to liaise with district officials in this regard and DAOs have been told to be in touch with the control room for any assistance or support. Army worms had severely affected farmlands in the State last year also.

Dist admin forms teams to enforce anti-tobacco laws

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 10: The Kamrup (Metro) district administration has constituted three teams of officials tasked with enforcing the anti-tobacco laws in the city.

"The teams have been constituted to take immediate action for strict enforcement of anti-tobacco laws in areas assigned. The officials will take necessary action against violations of the Cigarettes and Other Products Act, 2003, or COPTA," Kamrup (Metro) Deputy Commissioner Dr M Angamuthu said. The teams have also been directed to submit action taken reports on a daily basis to the DCO.

For this purpose, the city has been divided into three zones, with one team assigned to each zone. All the teams are headed by officials of the rank of Sub-Divisional Officer.

Nibhan Das Patowary will head the team in the East Zone, Rahul Das will be in charge of Central Zone, while Chinmoy Prakash Phukan will lead the team formed for the West Zone.

Book released

GUWAHATI, Sept 10: A book on the socio-economic life of Assam and the Northeast was released by senior journalist DN Chakravarty at a public meeting held at Panjabari today. The book - *Byatik, Samaj Aru Artha Samband* - is written by economist and statistician Nagen Bhuyan.

Releasing the book, Chakravarty referred to Bhuyan's literary works and dwelt on the analytical study on Assam's socio-economic condition and history by the author.

State Election Commissioner Harendra Nath Bora, retired bureaucrat Dal Bahadur Chetry, and library scientist Mahendra Bora lauded the literary works of Bhuyan and referred to the seven books already published by the writer.

Bhuyan spoke on the circumstances under which he completed the book with painstaking efforts and extensive travels. Earlier, poet Deva Prasad Talukdar explained the purpose of the function. - Staff Reporter



Devotees performing naam prasanga on the occasion of Sri Sri Madhavadee Tithi in Guwahati on Sunday. — UB Photos

Brajanath Sarma drama festival under way

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 10: The 11th annual Brajanath Sarma Memorial State Drama Festival got under way at Rabindra Bhawan last evening. It will conclude on September 15.

The ceremonial festival lamp was lit by Brajanath Sharma's daughter Nirmala Mishra and granddaughter Neelakshi Mishra Sharma. It was formally inaugurated by former Vice Chancellor of the Tezpur University, lyricist, poet and actor Dr Amritjyoti Choudhury.

The sovereign Kohinoor, written and directed by Dr Sitananth Lahkar. The drama highlights rampant

The function was followed by the first night's play *Chhan 2200* presented by Natyam from Puraniangudam. The playwright is Jayanta K Bora and his director Anjan Bhuyan. The play speaks about how machines were gradually going to be an inherent part of human life, eroding human values in the process. In the year 2200, how much of human life will be controlled by machine and what will be the quantum of space for human values, has been nicely showcased by the play.

This evening, Samabar Natya Gosthie staged their new play *PIL-99*, written and directed by Dr Sitananth Lahkar. The drama ends with a political game smeared with corruption and yellow journalism by a section of media. The drama ends with the hope of a changed democratic and egalitarian society.

DPS Guwahati team wins WWF middle level quiz

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 10: Seven schools, with 4,170 students from various school chains like KV, DPS, VKV, APS, Sainik Schools, MVM, Don Bosco, ICSE schools and State Boards of Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh, participated in this year's WWF Wild Wisdom quiz recently.

Adhiraj Kar (Class VI) and Navaneel Chakraborty (Class VII) of Delhi Public School, Guwahati, emerged winners securing the first position in the Middle Level quiz after

various rounds of quiz conducted by Abhra Das. The second position was bagged by Sainik Hussain (Class VII) and Avashish Kalita (Class VII) of Maharishi Vidya Mandir IV, Barsajai, and the third position went to Winson Moirangthem (Class VII) and Kshetrimayum Chinghei Singh (Class VII) of Sainik Foundation School, Imphal.

Archita Baruah Bhattacharyya, Coordinator, WWF-India, AAPSO, said the winners of WWF Wild Wisdom NE Act and Final - DPS Guwahati and wildcard entry winners Mohixit Goswami (Class VII) and Nirayak Talukdar (Class VII),

in New Delhi on October 6. During the event, a brochure, *Common Birds of Assam* prepared by WWF-India, AAPSO, was released. While the Junior and Middle Level Quiz are inching towards finale across the cities, the online version of the quiz registration for senior school students will remain open till October 10.

The finalists for the Middle Level Quiz were Maharishi Vidya Mandir IV, Barsajai, Sainik Foundation School, Imphal, KV Kharanpara, DPS Guwahati and wildcard entry winners Mohixit Goswami (Class VII) and Nirayak Talukdar (Class VII).

Bid to counter hate campaigns on cyber space

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 10: The online media is being increasingly used for hate campaigns to spread misinformation aimed to create distrust and alienation between different communities that result in hostilities and lead to violence.

In order to address these socially divisive and devastating trends arising from wrong use of social media and to promote understanding and peace in and through cyberspace, a "Tech Camp" was organised in Guwahati to

counter online fanatic indoctrination on September 9 and 10.

The camp was organised by COVA from Hyderabad in collaboration with Swabhid Peopl Phukan College, Asian Resource Foundation, North East Youth Foundation, in partnership with US Consulate General, Hyderabad and IIP.

As many as 36 participants in the Tech Camp were progressive religious scholars, mediapersons, social activists, academics, youth and students who were trained to gain expertise in

using social media for peace and understanding and to counter misinformation and hate campaigns.

People from different parts of the Northeast participated in the Tech Camp and they were trained on different social media tools which include Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Podcasting, developing blogs, apps and web sites.

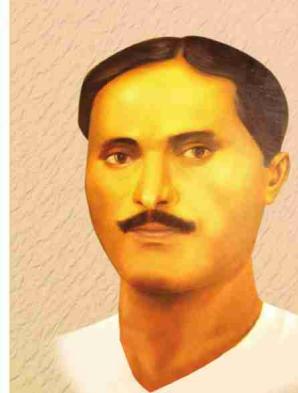
The Tech Camp enabled development of websites, apps and other tools to enable participants to use social media to address some challenges faced by them in

their professional and social engagements like addressing discrimination, training and orientating students and teachers to use social media to ensure quality education, using social media to bridge Northeast with other parts of the country, etc.

The NE chapter of COFI (Countering Online Fanatic Indoctrination) Network was formed with the objectives of promoting use of social media to counter online hate campaigns and secure cyber space to promote peace between different religions and communities.



Children participating in an art competition at the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra in Guwahati on Sunday. — UB Photos



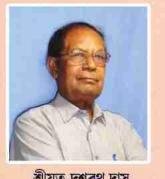
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বৰপেটা জিলা প্ৰশাসনৰ সহযোগত
অসমৰ নাট্য জগতৰ প্ৰবাদ পুৰুষ শিল্পীসৈনিক ব্ৰজনাথ শৰ্মাৰ
পৃষ্ঠ্য স্মৃতিৰ অসম চৰকাৰৰ ২০১৭ বৰ্ষৰ পৰা প্ৰযোজ্য হোৱাকৈ প্ৰাৰ্থন কৰা।**

**শিল্পীসৈনিক ব্ৰজনাথ শৰ্মাৰ স্মাৰক
বঁটা প্ৰদান অনুষ্ঠান**

স্থান : বৰুণগব জুৰোৱাৰ পাঠক উচ্চতৰ মাধ্যমিক আৰু
বহুমুখী বিদ্যালয় খেল পথাৰ, সৰভোগ
১২ চেন্টেৰে, ২০১৭, বিয়লি ৩১০০ বজাত
অসমৰ মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীযুত সৰ্বানন্দ সোণোৱালদেৱে
২০১৭ বৰ্ষৰ শিল্পীসৈনিক ব্ৰজনাথ শৰ্মাৰ স্মাৰক বঁটা
বিশিষ্ট সংৰক্ষণ শিল্পী শ্ৰীযুত দশৰথ দাসদেৱক প্ৰদান কৰিব।
|| সমানীয় অতিথি ||
শ্ৰীযুত বৰুণগব দলে, মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী, সাংস্কৃতিক পৰিক্ৰমা বিভাগ, অসম
|| বিশিষ্ট অতিথি ||
শ্ৰীযুত বণজিৎ দাস, মাননীয় বিধায়ক, সৰভোগ বিধানসভা সমষ্টি
এই অনুষ্ঠানত উপস্থিত থাকিবলৈ শিল্পীপ্ৰাণ বাইজেক বিনৰ্ভাৱে অনুৰোধ জনোৱা হ'ল।



শ্ৰীযুত সৰ্বানন্দ সোণোৱাল
মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী, অসম



শ্ৰীযুত দশৰথ দাস
বিশিষ্ট সংৰক্ষণ শিল্পী

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for kindness.

— SENECA

The Assam Tribune**Nature's wrath**

First Harvey, now Irma, with Jose to follow, it is almost as if Nature is elbowing US President Donald Trump to change his stance on global warming and climate change. If Harvey had flattened a large swathe of Texas and killed quite a few people, Irma promises to be even worse as it strikes Florida head on, after having wreaked havoc on a chain of the US Virgin Islands including Anguilla, Barbuda and the US Virgin Islands. It is fortunate that the science of meteorology has sufficiently advanced in recent times so that warning of a lethal hurricane can be given to the people well in advance and precautionary measures, including evacuation from areas likely to be hit, can be taken. This explains the relatively low of around 20 casualties that the Caribbean islands experienced, though the damage to the infrastructure had been tremendous. The danger from a hurricane stems from three factors – high-speed wind, storm surge and flooding due to heavy rains. Texas had experienced all three, which is why many people have not been able yet to return to their homes and the cost of rebuilding damage to private and public properties is expected to run to billions of dollars. Irma is a storm bigger than Harvey; in fact, it is bigger than Hurricane Andrew which devastated Florida in 1992 killing 65 people and became a yardstick to measure storms by.

That it is the US which is currently bearing this brunt of Nature's wrath is ironic, considering she has a President who has publicly held that global warming is a hoax hatched by China and India to squeeze money out of his country. He has given thumbs down to conclusions universally arrived at by environmental scientists that the earth needs to cut down on the use of fossil fuels in order to reduce carbon emission, and has given thumbs up to a revival of his country's coal industry. More pertinent, he has turned his back on the international community's concerted effort to clean up our ecosystems by withdrawing the US from the Paris Accord. It has to be kept in mind that the US is not alone in having natural disasters of unprecedented magnitude. Europe has recently been tormented by heat wave as well as torrential floods while millions of hectares of land in South Asia are still under water. However, these phenomena are merely the tip of the iceberg, for unless mankind can keep a leash on greenhouse gas emissions, the warming of the oceans will cause water levels to rise, inundating low lying shorelines and displacing millions of people from their homes. It is not certain how many more Harveys and Irmas will need to occur before a sceptic like Trump will change his mind and take off the blinkers he is wearing right now.

Waste disposal

Even as the State capital continues to grow at a frenetic pace, the absence of a matching civic infrastructure remains a perennial bane. Indeed, this has led to a situation in which the burgeoning city populace finds itself choking amid a civic chaos. For instance, scientific disposal of municipal solid waste as well as sewage is virtually non-existent in the city despite the fact that the situation is turning out to be a grave health and environmental hazard. The prevailing garbage disposal system of collection (without segregation at source) and dumping has led to pollution of groundwater, surface water, soil and air, as confirmed by periodical testing of MSW samples from the dumping sites by the PCBA. A lot has been said about plans to replace this hazardous solid waste management with a scientific mechanism involving door-to-door collection of segregated waste, transportation and proper disposal, including recycling, but in reality nothing of the sort has happened. The Chief Minister has now announced that a separate department for waste disposal and a waste management institute would soon be set up. He is, however, silent on the mechanism to be adopted for ridding the city of its daily filth in a scientific manner till the announcement materializes.

Even the present system of collection of solid waste from households remains highly irregular, resulting in the accumulation of garbage on roadsides and drains. It is apparent that for all its talk of grandioses futuristic plans, the GMC is not in a position to ensure streamlined collection of waste – let alone scientific disposal. Blaming the citizens alone is not going to hide the inefficiency of the GMC as long as it does not get its basics right. Any long-term garbage disposal plan has also to take into account the enormous quantity plastic waste generated daily. As plastics constitute a major chunk of the city's day-to-day waste, putting in place a mechanism for recycling of plastic waste or putting it to other productive use is a must. While plastic-to-fuel conversion plants can be the answer, plastic waste can also be used for road construction. Advanced countries have adopted different waste-to-resources models successfully to minimize the plastic-induced hazards, and we need to think on similar lines. Along with adoption of scientific measures, enforcement of civic norms is another necessity. Consequent to the boom in construction activities, the city's dust pollution has also reached frightening levels. The norms associated with construction and carrying of earth, sand, stone, etc., are never adhered to, thanks mainly to the lax and callous authorities. Much of the civic ills plaguing the city are attributable to the haphazard and unscientific development of the city over the decades. With its unique natural setting, Guwahati offered every prospect to be developed as a model city but we have made a complete mess of it. We ought to remember that a clean and green Guwahati would best serve our collective interest, including that of development.

Right to privacy: good prevailing over evil

■ Parresh Malakar

So there is a link between the recent judgement of the Supreme Court of India on the right to privacy and awarding a 20-year jail term to Dera chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim by a CBI court? Some may say that it will be too much to look for a link between the two disparate things. There does not seem to be any apparent connection between the two. We may first try to understand what is the meaning and import of the privacy judgement and then focus our attention on the Gurmeet episode and see if any inference of connection between the two incidents is possible. Finally, we may see the implications of both in the present circumstances.

Why has the right to privacy judgement been hailed so much? Here, let us see what the three major arguments of the Government of India were against declaring privacy as a fundamental right. First, the makers of the Indian Constitution never mentioned privacy as a separate right. So we should not incorporate it under Article 21 which guarantees the right to life and personal liberty. In the same manner, it cannot be a part of Article 19 which guarantees us various freedoms such as freedom of expression, etc. If we try to do so, it will tantamount to rewriting of the Constitution. The second argument was about the definition of privacy. As it was difficult to define privacy precisely and comprehensively, it could not be made a fundamental right. The third objection was about the status of privacy. India is predominantly a country with perennial poverty. What are needed here are certain basic necessities of life

for the masses, not the luxury of privacy. So there is no point to accord privacy the status of a fundamental right.

At this point, certain basic questions need to be asked and answered. Is the Constitution of India just a piece of paper? Or has it evolved through a historical process? How is it related to the aims, objectives and spirits of the free-world struggle? It will be grossly erroneous to treat the Constitution a mere scholarly treaty or legal document. The Constitution was the direct result of the Indian freedom movement. In that, it reflected and embodied the aspirations of the Indian masses. As mentioned by Granville Austin in his book *The Constitution of India*, Gandhi said in 1922, that the Swaraj must spring from "...the wishes of the people of India as expressed through their freely chosen representatives". Echoing the same spirit, Jawaharlal Nehru also said: "This cannot be done by the wisest of lawyers sitting together in concilie; it cannot be done by small committees trying to balance interests and calling that constitution-making: it can never be done under the shadow of an external authority. It can only be done effectively when the political and psychological conditions are present and the urge and sanctions come from the masses." On his own, Austin said: "Yet despite the permission of the entire constitution by the aim of national renaissance,

the core of the commitment to the social revolution lies in Parts III and IV, in the Fundamental Rights and in the Directive Principles of State Policy. These are the conscience of the Constitution."

We must remember here that Austin called the Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles the conscience of the Constitution.

The nine-judge constitution bench, while writing its judgement, must have gone through the evolv-

ing history of freedom and liberty in human society and the history of Indian freedom movement. So declaring privacy as a fundamental right, the bench commented: "Privacy is a constitutionally protected right emerging primarily from the guarantee of life and liberty in Article 21 of the Constitution." Again we should remember what Justice Chandrachud said on this behalf of the Chief Justice (now retired) Khehar, Justice RR Agarwal and S Abdul Nazeer in this regard: "Privacy is a concomitant of the right of the individual to exercise control over his or her personality. Natural rights (like privacy) are inalienable because they are inseparable from the human personality. The

branches, and from these branches there are sub-branches and leaves. Every one of these leaves is a right, all tracing back to the tree of justice. That privacy is an elitist concept is a most horrendous argument as if the people, or more particularly the poor and the dispossessed, have no need of the fundamental rights enshrined in our Constitution. Thus, from one great tree, there are

right to privacy has been traced to the decisions which have been rendered over more than four decades to the guarantee of life and personal liberty under Article 21." Here Justice Chelameswar going a step ahead, commented: "Fundamental rights are the only constitutional firewall to prevent the state's interference with those core freedoms constituting liberty of a human being." So though not said, it was inherent in Article 21 of the Constitution.

This is the declaration of privacy as a fundamental right does not tantamount to rewriting the Constitution. The fact that the concept of privacy is indefinable cannot be held against making it a fundamental right.

There are so many things hidden in and inherent to it that it has wide ramifications and as Justice Sanjay Krishna Kaul has

said, "Thus, from one great tree, there are

branches, and from these branches there are sub-branches and leaves. Every one of these leaves is a right, all tracing back to the tree of justice.

That privacy is an elitist concept is a most horrendous argument as if the people, or more particularly the poor and the dispossessed, have no need of the fundamental rights enshrined in our Constitution. They need only some subsistence of life, otherwise they are not autonomous individuals and their rights can be trampled upon any time anywhere. To hurl such indignities on the common man is simply illogical. To refute this, there is no need to quote anyone.

Now what are the implications of the judgment? This judgement of

the Supreme Court of India is no new discovery. The court has stated what is already there, but said it in a time when as columnist Manini Chatterjee has said, "...majoritarian impulses threaten the lives and livelihoods, the freedoms and liberties, the privacy and dignity of whole multitude of Indians. The unanimous view taken by the nine wise men of the Supreme Court comes as a flood of sunshine, a gust of fresh air to lift the darkness and the claustrophobia threatening to smother this land."

Now how does this judgement relate to the episode of Gurmeet Ram Rahim? The hallmark of the privacy judgement is the individual liberty and freedom which is closely connected with free thinking and scientific temperament. Why does the civilized world crave for democracy and liberal values?

Because that offers the maximum space for the assertion of individual autonomy, human development and welfare. When we speak of human development, we mean the indices of human development. What do we see if we compare this with the world view of Gurmeet Ram Rahim? Here is a man posing himself as God, promoting all kinds of unthinkable things, irrationalism and asking people to totally surrender to his whims and fancies. And who are the people behind his power and promotion? The top leaders of political parties. On the one hand we see the upholding of the supremacy of human liberty and freedom and on the other, we see an attempt to dominate and stifle free individual spirit. So here we see a contradictory link between the two which can be said to be a fight between the good and the evil.

Presently, the good has prevailed over the evil.

Triple talaq verdict: a step towards gender justice

■ Abhilasha Purna Bhuyan

Swami Vivekananda, one of the greatest sons of India, said that "there is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly with only one wing". Likewise in India where half of the population comprises women, in order to achieve the status of a developed nation, India needs to transform its colossal women force into effective human resource which is possible only through women empowerment.

The historic 3:2 verdict delivered on August 22 last, where the Supreme Court struck down the regressive instant triple talaq or *talaq-e-biddat* declaring it as unconstitutional and sinful can be seen as a positive step towards liberating Muslim women from the cruel practice of instant triple talaq. Triple talaq is an age-old Muslim practice in India whereby a husband can divorce his wife just by uttering the word talaq three times, which can be done through phone, SMS or email. A survey conducted by the Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan (BMMA)

found that more than 90% of Muslim women wanted a ban on the practice of triple talaq.

According to Justice Rohinton Nariman, triple talaq violates the Fundamental Right guaranteed under Article 14 (right to equality) of the Constitution. It was arbitrary, Nariman said, given that how marriage could be broken capriciously and whimsically by a Muslim man without any room for judicial intervention or even reconciliation.

That instead of a split verdict among the five-judge Constitution bench, it should have been a unanimous decision is disappointing to some extent. In the highest court of this country, when the religious beliefs trump our fundamental right to equality, Chief Justice JS Khehar chose to take the opposite view on what is clearly a cruel and callous practice. He opined that the court could not interfere in the personal laws under Article 25 (which states that every individual is "equally entitled to freedom of conscience") and has the right "to profess, practice and propagate religion" of one's choice that re-

quired all constitutional courts to

are constantly under pressure and live in fear of being talqa instantaneously without letting her know the reasons thereof.

How ironic is that Islam gave women their basic rights centuries before the West did but still the Muslim women are fighting for this. "For his day, the Prophet Muhammad was a feminist," writes Lisa Beyer in an article for Time magazine. By laying down the Islamic doctrine that dictates women's rights, the prophet was arguably the first feminist in history.

Countering the widespread exploitation of women in the 7th century Arabia, he ordered men to honour and respect them. In one of his last commands before his death, he kept repeating: "I command you to be kind and considerate to women." In another hadith, he said: "It is only the generous in character who is good to women, and only the evil one who insults them." He also frowned upon the fathers who insult their daughters and favour their sons over them, saying the birth of a girl is a "blessing".

Zakia Soman of Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan (BMMA) is very right while describing the verdict as a victory, not just for the Muslim

women of India, "rich or poor, literate or illiterate, Hindu, Muslim or Christian, but all women who supported this fight. The BMMA believes that gender justice is fundamental to Islam. It has been distorted by self-appointed guardians like the All India Muslim Personal Law Board. Allah's message is for all Muslims, men and women, there is no room for middlemen.

From Shah Bano to Shrayana Banu, it's been a long journey in the quest for equality that finally came with a meaningful and robust progressive reform. Yet, there are miles to travel in the road to gender justice for women. Along with the government, the society has to come forward to create awareness and to fight against other misogynistic traditions like marital rape, polygamy, *nikah halala* and child marriage. The need of the hour is an egalitarian society by replacing patriarchy with parity, which is so deep-rooted in Indian society. The idea of women empowerment might sound hard by the yard, but by the inch, it is just a cinch. All we need is a concerted effort focused in the right direction that would rest only with the liberation of women from all forms of evil.

Letters to the EDITOR

Demonetization a fiasco

following demonetization had changed the goalpost many a time. From fighting corruption and black money, the economy shifted to tax evasion and digital economy. It did however provide the BJP with a political trump card. The verdict of the BJP in the UP elections was unexpected. The PM spoke of demonetization in every rally he attended. But the amount of money spent by the political parties in these rallies still remains unanswered.

Today we know enough that the effect of demonetization on the economy has been disastrous. The current GDP figures at 5.7% have hit a three-year low. With these crucial data out now, the Government and the authorities concerned will have to answer many uncomfortable questions in the days to come. Yours etc., HIMANGKA KAUSHIK, Guwahati.

Silencing dissent
Sir, – The bullets that killed the Father of the Nation have once again struck to silence senior journalist Gauri Lankesh, just days after the second anniversary of the killing of

noted rationalist Dr MM Kalburgi. It's clearly indicated that the world's largest democracy is slowly and steadily losing its bold face as a free-thinking society moving towards a flawed democracy. People remain dumb to see the cold-blooded murder of Narendra Babu Golwalkar, Govind Panse, Kalburgi and now Gauri Lankesh, which were attempts at muting the voices of dissent with violence. But who are the killers? Though the Karnataka Government was quick to set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the killing, but due to the lengthy process of our Judiciary, whether the killers will be brought to book or not is anybody's guess. It's a pity that Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoned the Trinamool Congress MP Sultan Ahmed's death from a foreign land, but Twitter lover Modi has remained mum on Lankesh's brutal murder.

Instead, Modi has come under fire for following multiple troll handles via his Twitter account, for spewing venom since the death of Lankesh, comparing her to a militant and an antinational. Now the people are eagerly waiting to see how Modi as the Prime Minister of the country stands on this. Yours etc., BIDYUT KUMAR CHATTERJEE, Faridabad.

Waiting list

Sir, – Through your esteemed editorial, I would like to draw the attention of the authority concerned of the Education Department as well as the Education Minister of Assam about the importance of the 'waiting list' at the time of publication of the selection list for the post of assistant teacher. In the other State Government departments, at the time of publication of any selection list, a waiting list is also made available. Whenever a selected candidate fails to join his service or resigns from his job within a year, then the candidates from the waiting list get a chance to be appointed. But, in case of the Education Department, we do not see any such waiting list. This leads to a situation where in the case of a candidate not joining service or his resigning from job within a year, his/her post remains vacant till the next appointment. Therefore, it is my

request to the authority concerned to prepare a waiting list along with the selection list in the interest of all the candidates. Yours etc., JITUL KALITA, Rangia.

BDO exam

Sir, – The APSC had conducted the recruiting exam for the post of BDO in three phases, two written rounds followed by viva voce which was held on October 19, 2016. However, the entire process was cancelled and it was decided to conduct it from scratch. The latest BDO prelims exam was supposed to be held on August 13, 2017, but was postponed again. I would like to request the APSC to consider the candidates who had cleared the previous prelims exam held in September, 2015 and conduct the BDO exam from the mains phase rather than the prelims phase, because it will kill the time and energy of the candidates. Yours etc., CHAMPAK DEKA, Geetanagar, Guwahati.

Articles (within 1000-1100 words) and Letters to the Editor for publication in the editorial page may be sent to the email ID: editor@assamttribune.com.

Outgoing chief alleges graft in managing Waqf Board properties

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 10: Alleging large-scale corruption in the management of the properties of Assam Waqf Board, Chairman Nekibor Zaman on Sunday said that the previous government remained indifferent to the issues raised by him for ensuring that the Board functioned in the best interests of the intended beneficiaries.

Addressing a press conference, Zaman, whose term is ending on September 12, said that even his life had come under threat from the land mafia who had been hell-bent on misappropriation.

ing Board property.

The indifference of the previous government can be explained to a large extent by the fact that a substantial portion of Waqf property had been under the hold of many Congressmen. Former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi had promised of a judicial inquiry, but nothing materialised.

The present government has so far shown some intent in cleaning up the Board, with Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal instituting a survey of Waqf land and property. We expect that the much-needed reforms of the Board will take place soon," he said.

There are around 20,000 bighas of land besides a number of tea gardens under Waqf Board but most of the properties are being misused. Other than that, there are 179 registered properties under the board. The present value of these properties even by conservative estimates will run into Rs 50,000 crore.

But the revenue which was being generated over the years was mere Rs 70,000-80,000 or slightly higher in the last several years.

Zaman alleged that the political leaders-land mafia nexus had ensured that most of the Waqf properties are under the hold of undesirable people. Zaman took charge as Board Chairman in 2014.

More long-distance passenger trains to start operating shortly

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 10: Maligaon-headquartered Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) will restart services of eight more pairs of long-distance passenger trains over the next few days.

Services of 12346 Saraghat Express will commence from September 16, the 12346 Saraghat Express will restart operations from September 17, the 12154 Guwahati-Secunderabad from September 21, the 12513 Secunderabad-Guwahati from September 22, and the 12520 Kamakhya-LTT AC Express from September 21, the 12519 LTT-Kamakhya AC Express from September 17, the 15909 Avadh Assam Express from September 17, the 15910 Avadh Assam Express from September 16, the 13247 Capital Express from

September 19, the 13248 Capital Express from September 17, the 15668 Kamakhya-Gandhidham Express from September 20, the 15668 Gandhidham-Kamakhya Express from September 16, the 15653 Okha-Guwahati Dwarika Express from September 22, and the 15656 Guwahati-Okha Dwarika Express from September 25.

"These trains are in addition to 11 pairs of trains already restored since the movement of trains over the affected portion started last week," said Pranav Jyoti Sharma, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of NFR Railway.

Meanwhile, the railway authorities have been able to open the flood-affected 'Down' line portion of tracks in between Suthnai and Telta stations in Bihar on Friday.

"The Down line portion was certi-

fied fit to run goods trains at 10 km per hour. The first goods train passed over Down line section on Friday. The situation at the site is being monitored by railway officials and work is in progress for early restoration of passenger traffic. Now, it has been certified as fit for passenger trains also. It is expected that passenger traffic in the Down line would be restored today," said an official.

Railway services to and from the NFR zone and the rest of the country had got snapped on August 13 following floods in eastern Bihar.

Goods train services were restored on August 29 in the 'Up' line and passenger services on September 2. However, so far only a few long-distance passenger trains have been restored and the services of such trains are being reintroduced in a progressive fashion.

Financial ...

(Contd from page 1)

Accordingly, appropriation accounts were prepared by the AG during the period from 2009-10 to 2013-14, which exhibited expenditure of Rs 281.72 crore under the WPT and BC plan against the original budget provision of Rs 1,469.09 crore during the period. Thus, there was a huge variation between the expenditure and the budget provisions.

The report pointed out that as per treasury rules, all money received by or tendered to government servants on account of revenue should be paid in full into the treasury without delay and included in public accounts. Such funds cannot be utilised to meet the expenditure of the departments concerned directly and cannot be kept apart from the public accounts. But interestingly, such a major case was seen in the BTC during the audit. The report revealed that during the period of audit, Rs 940 lakh was collected as sale proceeds of wayside bus tickets and was not deposited in the Personal Ledger Account (PLA) and it was not accounted in the Council's cash book. The money was kept in a current bank account, which led to understatement of the actual receipts of the BTC. Moreover, out of the amount, together with the unspent balance of the previous year, an amount of Rs 93.10 lakh was spent on transport service activities, but it was not accounted for in the cash books as well as in the annual accounts.

The CAG pointed out that the annual accounts for the

years under audit were compiled without reconciliation with the treasury records as was evident from the differences in the opening and closing balances.

As there is no internal audit mechanism in the BTC, scrutiny of the cash books, ledgers and other connected records proved large scale discrepancies. Pointing out to some such irregularities, the report said that vouchers of expenditure were not submitted properly and no voucher number was mentioned in the cash books. Bill numbers were not mentioned in the cash books and similarly, the cash book folio number was not mentioned in the vouchers.

The project has been undertaken under the technical guidance of Dr Pradip Baishya, president of Care Assam and initiatives of Bhupesh Sarma, secretary of Kamakhya Devallya.

"An in-situ waste segregating and processing system is being planned and implemented for this popular shrine which is one of the 10 iconic places in India and a major tourist attraction. There could not have been a better place for the auspicious beginning of a proper waste management

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 10:

As part of a joint initiative by Kamakhya Devallya, Care Assam and Eco Waste Management, the setting up of a scientific waste management for the holy shrine of Goddess Kamakhya got a kick-start on Sunday.

The project has been undertaken under the technical guidance of Dr Pradip Baishya, president of Care Assam and initiatives of Bhupesh Sarma, secretary of Kamakhya Devallya.

"An in-situ waste segregating and processing system is being planned and implemented for this popular shrine which is one of the 10 iconic places in India and a major tourist attraction. There could not have been a better place for the auspicious beginning of a proper waste management

system than Kamakhya Devallya where people from all walks of life from all over the world throng," Dr Baishya said.

The plan for creating a Swachh Kamakhya consists of an integrated waste segregating and processing system in the temple campus developed by Eco Waste Management is the essence of this project.

Care Assam organised a day-long campaign in the temple campus on Sunday with the objective of sensitising the devotees on the importance of waste management and being responsible to garbage disposal.

Dr Baishya, who is also an Assistant Professor from Assam Engineering College, Guwahati, was the chief guest on the occasion. Mohit Sarma and Kabinda Prasad Sarma, Doloi Kamakhya Devallya were

the guests of honour.

A street play by youngsters was performed to propagate the message of creating a Swachh Bharat. Waste segregating bins have been installed inside the temple campus with relevant information.

Leaflets with information on responsible waste disposal procedures were also distributed to the public. Specially-designed waste segregating bins were also distributed to shopkeepers in the area as part of the first testing phase of the project.

There were demonstrations of portable composting techniques like the Rotary Drum Composter in different sizes which can be used for community and also at household level. There was also a felicitation ceremony of four waste cleaners of Kamakhya temple for providing hygienic cleaning services.

"Devotees in thousands gather in temples and pay offerings to the goddess that include flowers, fruits, incense sticks, earthen lamps, food items, etc. Most or parts of these offerings are discarded once the rituals are over, creating litter and polluting the temple environment. India is a country of festivals and there are many occasions all year round where a lot of waste is generated in holy shrines. Besides these there are also all kinds of human activities going on in a busy temple which generate different categories of garbage," Dr Baishya said, adding that the offerings in temples were also a resource which if disposed scientifically and processed further.

Agri scientists call for effective ...

(Contd from page 1)
rice plants for not more than two weeks, the farmers should opt for submergence-tolerant 'sali' rice varieties like Ranji Sub 1, Bahadur Sub 1, Jalashree, Jalkukuri (all AAU-developed varieties), Swarna Sub 1, etc.

In flood-prone areas, the farmers can choose Gitesh for 'sali' rice crop as this is suitable for staggered planting with well defined purchase policy due to which the Council had to incur extra or avoidable expenditure over the years, the report said.

"We need to maintain a buffer stock of seeds of early and mid-early rice varieties such as Luit, Disang, Kolong, Dikhow, Lachit, IR50, etc., every year as a matter of policy by the State government and with participation of AAU, Assam Seeds Corporation and the Department of Agriculture," Dr Pathak said.

Having a contingency plan

with thrust on crop care during flood time can also ease the sit-

uation for the farmers.

According to Dr Pathak, in upland and medium lands where farmers fail to grow rice, where availability of seedlings and constraints of transplanting rice crop due to shortage of man and animal power, the farmers may opt for growing rice following direct sowing of seeds on the puddled field with sprouted seeds depending on the suitability of the field conditions.

"It is always advisable to arrange sowing of the seeds in line to facilitate better management and also to ensure optimum plant population. It is also advisable to use herbicides for weed control. Under no circumstance, direct sowing can be delayed beyond the first week of September even with

the short-duration varieties," he said.

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the short-duration varieties," he said.

Shifting of the alignment of the Rail Bridge to proposed location of Road Bridge across Brahmaputra will defeat the very purpose of the RET survey - connectivity of Majuli Island with Jorhat via a short route," the letter stated.

Meanwhile, NHIDCL sources said since the State government gives the go-ahead after studying the inception report (the broad outline of the project), Louis Berger will start the work of preparing the DPR of the Numaligarh-Gopur bridge. The four-lane bridge will be around 9-km long, with 10 km of approach roads on both sides.

Official sources said personnel from the Army, paramili-

Floods submerge 19 villages ...

(Contd from page 1)
ary forces, SDRF, Assam Police have been pressed into rescue and relief operation.

Relief materials have also been distributed among the flood-affected people. Members of AASU, ABSU and Aoxom Sena are also extending help in rescue and relief operations.

Besides the district administration officials, Rangapara MLA and Power Minister Palbari Lochan Das and Sooten MLA Padma Hazarika visited several places.

Official sources said personnel from the Army, paramili-



Abul Bora, chief coordinator of Sri Sri Astuttora Sata-Rupini Durga Puja Uddipan Committee, addressing a press conference along with other members, in Guwahati on Sunday. —UB Photos

Cultural body to promote quality Assamese dramas

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 10: The legacy of Assamese drama and culture can be showcased by staging both epic and modern dramatic creations. Keeping this in view, we have decided to stage dramas at regular intervals. However, to sustain such activities, especially during the initial phase, we need a corpus fund," Baruah said.

The Samiti, a non-profit body, however, has urged the people of the State to come forward for supporting quality theatre presentation in the city.

The Kamrup Natya Samiti is housed in the Kumar Bhaskar Naik Mandir in the bid to ameliorate the Assamese drama and reconnect it with the culture of the State.

"Three shows of Swasthyasari, a satire by eminent playwright Mahendra Borthakur will be staged on October 13 and 14,"

Natya Samiti president Dhiren Baruah said.

During its century-long existence, the Samiti has undergone several changes. Recently, it was renovated with the help of community contribution and also with the financial support of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Guwahati Refinery. At present, the Samiti is primarily managed by the sub-

committee of its members.

"The legacy of Assamese drama and culture can be showcased by staging both epic and modern dramatic creations.

Keeping this in view, we have decided to stage dramas at regular intervals. However, to sustain such activities, especially during the initial phase, we need a corpus fund," Baruah added.

The Samiti will stage *Mritnal* in February 2018, commemorating the birth anniversary of Satyaprasad Baruah.

TENDER NOTICE TENDER ID: 2017_AA1_2811_01	
Sr. Manager Engg(Elect.), AA1, Dibrugarh Airport invite interested persons through e-tender portal on behalf of Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for the work of "Operation & Maintenance of E & M installations at DWR Building of Dibrugarh Airport including supply of spare parts" with an estimated cost of Rs. 23,07,302/-	
Period of completion for the work is 12 (Twelve) months. The last date for online sale & submission of e-bid (Envelope I, II & III) is 09/09/2017. Interested persons for further details, visit CPP website http://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app or www.salaro.gov.in . Further clarification/Corrigendum in this regard, if any, will be uploaded only on CPP website/app.	

National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research (NIPER), Guwahati (Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Govt. of India)	
RECRUITMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE & SRF/JRF POSITIONS (on contract basis)	
National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Guwahati is inviting applications for administrative positions on contract basis and SRF/JRF positions (EMR projects). For full details and for application form, visit our Website: www.niperguwaahati.ac.in .	

CANCELLATION / SHORT TERMINATION AND PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF TRAIN SERVICES	
Due to effect of heavy rainfall on track between Lamshakhan and Hauzia the following trains are cancelled/short terminated & partially cancelled as under:	
CANCELLATION UP TO 16-09-2017	
1. 18171/17/17 Guwahati-Hojal - Guwahati Intercity Express 2. 13085/18/18 Guwahati-Dibrugarh-Shillong Shillong Express 3. 05090/05/10 Guwahati - Dibrugarh - Guwahati Special 4. 05631/05/32 Guwahati - Silchar - Silchar - Guwahati Special	
SHORT TERMINATION/PARTIAL CANCELLATION UP TO 16-09-2017	
1. 15769 Allipurduar Jn. - Lumding Intercity Express will be short terminated at Hojal and will remain partially CANCELLED between Hojal and Lumding and 15770 Lumding - Allipurduar Jn. Intercity Express will be originated from Hojal and will remain partially CANCELLED between Hojal and Lumding. 2. 55601 Guwahati - Lumding Passenger will be short terminated at Laka and will remain partially CANCELLED between Laka and Lumding and 55602 Lumding - Guwahati Passenger will be originated from Laka and will remain partially CANCELLED between Lumding and Laka.	
Inconvenience caused to the Passengers is regretted General Manager (Operations)	

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Special Train GUWAHATI to SECUNDERABAD			
It has been decided to run one Special Train No. 02520 Guwahati to Secunderabad on 14-09-2017 (One way only) to clear the extra rush of passengers. Details are as under:			
Station	Arrival	Departure	Date
Guwahati	---	06.20	
Rangiya Jn.	07.15	07.20	14-09-2017
New Bongaigaon	09.35	09.40	
New Jalpaiguri	14.10	14.25	
Malda Town	18.30	18.45	
Howrah Jn.	00.45	01.05	
Kharagpur Jn.	02.45	03.00	
Bhubaneswar	07.40	07.45	15-09-2017
Vishakapatnam	15.05	15.50	
Vijayawada Jn.	21.40	22.00	
Secunderabad Jn.	04.00	—	16-09-2017

Other Commercial Stoppages: Kamakhya, New Alipurduar, New Coach Behar, Krishnabati Baran Jn., New Farakka Jn., Rupnarayan Jn., S. N. Nikhil, Bokaro, Birbhum, Bankura, Purulia, Cooch Behar, Khurda Road Jn., Balasore, Berhampur, Palas, Srikakulam Road, Vizianagram Jn., Rajamundry.

COMPOSITION: AC-2 tier (one), AC-3 tier (three), Sleeper Class (twelve) and SLR (two) = 18 coaches.

General Manager (Operations)

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING					
The Project Director, PMU, APFCB Society, Guwahati invites all the registered Civil construction companies for the Construction of Aranya Bhawan Annex building at Panjbari. The details regarding 'Invitation for Bids' and 'Bidding Document' may be downloaded from our website www.apfcbs.nic.in or PMU/APFCB Society Office at Guwahati. All clarification regarding the tender may be sent to the Project Director, PMU, APFCB Society payable at Guwahati. The last date of submission of bids is 10th October, 2017 by 13.30 hrs. and the bids shall be opened at 14.00 hrs. on the same dates.					
Package No.	Name of Work		Total Approximate Value of Works (Rs.)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Cost of documents (Rs.)
CW/ Aranya Bhawan Annex	Construction of Aranya Bhawan Annex		8,40,85,000	2% of Total Approximate Value of Works	300/-
Janasanyog/C/1431/17 G/TN/4111					12 months from the date of issue of notice to proceed with the work
S/o Addl. PCCF (A&W) Old the PCCF & Hoff Assam, Panjbari, Guwahati-37					

Morigaon dist in grip of floods once again

CORRESPONDENT

MORIGAON, Sept 10: Nearly 90,000 people of Lahorighat and Mayong revenue circles in Morigaon district have been affected again as the surging waters of the Brahmaputra inundated more than 80 revenue villages of the two circles today.

The worst-affected villages fall under Pakaria mouza under Mayong revenue circle. The flood waters damaged standing crops in more than 23,000 hectares of land.

The damaged PWD roads of Lahorighat and Mayong which were destroyed in earlier flood were again inundated leading to the closure of surface communication to the remote areas of two circles.

The flood situation deteriorated today as the surging waters of the Brahmaputra again inundated some new revenue villages. Cattle and other domestic animals have been badly hit as there is no green grass and a fodder crisis is looming large in the affected villages of the district. Primary schools in large numbers are under knee deep waters leading to their closure.

Appointment of teachers demanded in Cachar dist

CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, Sept 10: Demanding immediate recruitment of teachers including principals, vice principals and faculty staff across Government schools in Cachar district, student organisation All Cachar Karmangal Students Association (ACKSHA) staged a protest demonstration outside the office of the Inspector of Schools, Cacher. Later, the protesters submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister.

"There are 36 posts vacant in Government Boys' HS School. The Government HS School lacks 36 posts of both teaching and non-teaching posts. The Narsing HS School is running with 19 posts yet to be filled. A similar situation has badly affected the academic atmosphere in the district. The illusive promises of the Education Minister will not be tolerated if the schools remain without teachers and staff," said Rupam Nandi Purakayasha, chief advisor of the student body.

OBITUARY

Harit Lochan Dutta

GUWAHATI, Sept 10: Harit Lochan Dutta, a resident of Jorhat, Guwahati, passed away on September 6. He was 85.

He worked in the Education Department, Shillong. Then he was transferred to Guwahati and became the Joint Director of the Sports and Youth Welfare department. He was also the secretary of Assam Flying Club, Borjhar for about seven years and was a life member of Kumar Bhaskar Naya Mandir.

He lost his wife Nirmita (Sadar) Dutta in 1988 and his daughter Moushumi (Booni) Dutta in 1995. He leaves behind two sons, daughters-in-law, a granddaughter and a grandson. His elder son, Rahul Dutta is a former international table tennis player, currently based in Mumbai. His younger son, Raktim Dutta is an ex-table tennis State champion.

Purna Kanta Bora

CORRESPONDENT

DHEMAMI, Sept 10: Purna Kanta Bora, retired assistant teacher of Swarnapeeth High School in Dhemaji and an inhabitant of Kechukhanapar of Samaraja area died on September 7 at his own residence. He was 62.

He joined as an assistant teacher at Swarnapeeth High School on July 1, 1984 and retired from service on May 30, 2015. A devoted and sincere teacher, he was awarded as a good teacher during his service period by the Dhemaji district administration. He was loved and respected by all in due to his amiable nature.

He leaves behind his wife, three daughters and a host of relatives.

National award for Golaghat school

CORRESPONDENT

DERGAON, Sept 10 : A rural school of Golaghat district has achieved a milestone in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan programme launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

The Borjan ME School, situated at Bhakata-gaon in Golaghat district bagged the 'Swachh Vidyalaya Award'.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India launched the 'Swachh Bharat Swachh Vidyalaya' (SBSV) initiative in 2014 to ensure that all schools in India have access to separate functional toilets for boys and girls. The initiative also has its emphasis on promoting safe and appropriate hygiene practices in schools and behavior among children.

According to information, of the 172 schools selected for the award across the country, six schools were from Assam.

The award was conferred at a function held at Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Auditorium at Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2, APS Colony, Delhi Cantt in New Delhi on September 1. The award was received by the Head Master of the school, Kumud Dutta from the Union Minister of HRD, Prakash Javadekar. The school was established way back in 1949 and since then it has been playing a pivotal role in expanding rural education," Dutta claimed.

What is more interesting is that the school has a unique medicinal plants garden, a digital classroom and is equipped with modern toilet facilities. "I am trying to create a better ambience in the school premises in order to woo rural students for primary education," Dutta claimed.



Headmaster Kumud Dutta receiving the award from Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi recently.

Disgusted villagers plant paddy saplings on road

CORRESPONDENT

now a worried lot.

"It's this a road or a paddy field, echched Sujit Das, Ashim Das, Dipu Das and other natives as they informed that despite numerous appeals made before the Gaon Panchayat authorities and even before the local MLA, the road remained in a shambles.

"Under MGNREGS-2015-16, the construction work of the road was inaugurated by Taru Babu Sinha, AP member of the Gaon Panchayat. The estimated amount was Rs 26.40 lakh," said Pritish Kanti Das, former AP member. The residents have also raised fingers on the role of the local Panchayat president Seema Roy and GP secre-

tary Nilopil Chakraborty.

Further, the villagers have expressed resentment over the role of the elected representatives saying that the political leaders come only to seek votes during elections and forget once they are chosen to speak for the people. "We had hoped on the new Government to give us better roads and reasons to smile. But with the way things are maintained, we are left with less hope and more disappointment," maintained Suma Das and Anima Das.

It may be mentioned that people of the village submitted a memorandum to the Cacher Deputy Commissioner drawing his attention towards their plight.



People of Suti village in Cachar district wade through the muddy road.

Tuman Deka: a tribute



Tuman Deka

popularly known as Tumal Pub-Sarania, Chandmari locality, passed away due to sudden illness on September 1. He was 47.

He was also closely associated with various socio-cultural organisations. Late Deka was also deeply involved with the Pub-Sarania Puja Committee, Chandmari Puja Samity and Pub Sarania Ganesh Mandir and others. A very friendly and amiable person, Tuman endeared himself to everyone who came into contact with him. His premature demise was deeply mourned by his friends and well-wishers.

He leaves behind parents, elder brother, wife, a son and a son of relatives.

Today, on the day of his ashvayatra, I pray to the Almighty for the eternal peace of his departed soul.

— Sabita Deka Kalita

Cleanliness drive

ANN Service

NILAMBAZAR, Sept 10: The Ghuramara Kachuaian Model Hospital organised a day-long cleanliness drive at the Ghuramara village in which over 300 people took part.

Talking to reporters, Monotosh Deb, secretary of Kachuaian Hospital Suraksha Committee said that the cleanliness drive was carried out under the Prime Minister's Swachh Bharat Mission.

The hospital was upgraded in 2013 by providing additional funds by the State Government.

"Despite repeated pleas from various quarters, the State Health Department is yet to appoint doctors and nurses for which people in the locality are facing problems," Deb said.

1530 deprived teachers to continue stir

ANN Service

had assured them a of settlement prior to the elections but now they are silent.

The teachers have threatened not to cooperate in the Gumtusov slated to be held on October 9 and 10 next month unless the Government takes an initiative to solve the issue.

Addressing the teachers in front of DC office in Silsagar, Jitend Das, secretary, Charadeo District Prathik Sikhsam Sammelan, said that it was a gross violation of human rights on the part of the government. He alleged that all the six MLAs and the MP from the district

5 Bangladeshi nationals held

ANN Service

BADARPUR, Sept 10: Five Bangladeshi nationals were held at the Badarpur Railway Station on Saturday by the Badarpur Railway Police, from the Agartala-Sealdah Kan-chunje Express, immediately after it arrived at the Badarpur Railway Station.

Acting on specific information, the CRPF and railway police posted at the railway station conducted a raid on a particular coach of the train and arrested the Bangladeshi nationals.

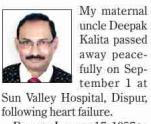
The arrested persons have been identified as Balaram Das, Hirday Das, Shilpa Das, Primal Chandra Das and Arun Das.

Official sources while sharing information with this correspondent said that all the Bangladeshi nationals had entered India through Tripura-Bangla border last month by paying around Rs 2,500 to a person. "The Bangladeshi nationals generally enter India through the porous Indo-Bangla border which needs to be sealed in the greater interest of the region," the sources said.

Seminar on insurgency

STAFF REPORTER

Deepak Kalita



My maternal uncle Deepak Kalita passed away peacefully on September 1 at Sun Valley Hospital, Dispur following heart failure.

Born on January 17, 1957 to Ramswaran Kalita and Bhagwati Kalita at Silpukhuri in Guwahati, Deepak Kalita, after completing his graduation, decided to be self-dependent through entrepreneurship, influenced by the then Assam Movement. Among his many successful and unsuccessful ventures, he owned the 'Nobela' bookshop at Panbazar, Guwahati. He also established a publishing house and gave scope to young writers. Not caring for any profits, he went on publishing some important books on science and art, which contributed to the language and literature of Assam. His most important publication was the North Eastern Year Book in Assamese and English.

— Nirmita Talukdar

Deben Ch Borah

Deben Ch Borah (Putala), a

pioneer in the growth and expansion of pharmacies as well as medical service in greater Dergaon area passed away on September 1 at the age of 86.

Born in 1931 at Rajamaidam (Jorhat), he started his schooling at Jorhat. After passing out his Higher Secondary course at Berry White Medical School (presently Assam Medical College), Dibrugarh and completed his B Pharm Degree in 1952.

After completing his degree he started his career at Rajali Tea Estate, Tinsukia. But he was in search of other ways to serve the people. Finally, he came to Dergaon and started his medicine shop named 'M/S Borah Pharmacy' in 1961 at a rented house at Dergaon town. Later he settled at Dergaon town. This was the turning point of his life. He also started examining patients and prescribing medicines as he was a registered pharmacist in the small town. Within a short period,

he became popular among the residents of Dergaon and came to be known as 'Putala Borah doctor' in and around greater Dergaon area. He was so friendly that the poor people could go to him even without any fees and he satisfactorily served them. He served the people till the last moment of his life for 56 years.

Today, on the day of his ashvayatra, I pray to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to his departed soul.

— Sanjoy Kr Hazarika



Mahakabir tithi being observed at a satsra in Barpeta on Sunday. — UB Photos

Alphons to assess BJP's poll preparation in Meghalaya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, Sept 10: Union Tourism Minister and BJP's election in-charge for Meghalaya, Alphons Kannanthanam would be visiting the State between September 10 to 17. He would witness the election preparations of the party. "Shibu Lyngdoh, BJP State president said here today. Meghalaya goes to poll in February 2018.

Kannanthanam was in-charge for the role of election in-charge for Meghalaya by BJP after his induction into the Union Cabinet.

It is believed the former bureaucrat from Kerala was made the election in-charge

possibly to woo the Christian vote in the State as Kannanthanam is a Roman Catholic. "Kannanthanam would be visiting the State between September 10 to 17. He would witness the election preparations of the party." Shibu Lyngdoh, BJP State president said here today. Meghalaya goes to poll in February 2018.

Lyngdoh, however, didn't comment on Kannanthanam's reported statement that "foreign tourists can eat beef in their country and then come here." The BJP party presi-

dent said it would be incorrect for him to make any comments and would rather allow Kannanthanam to clarify himself.

"When he comes here he would probably give his clarification," Lyngdoh said.

Meanwhile, the party's national president Amit Shah is scheduled to visit the State on August 28. During Shah's one-day visit to the State, some sitting legislators are likely to join the party.

So far, two independent legislators—Robinus Syngon and Justine Dikhar—have joined the party. Lyngdoh said Shah would be staying overnight here in the State and would be leaving for Nagaland on August 29.

The party is focusing on Jaintia Hills which it feels can give political dividends for the party. The party has been giving signals that it is capable of lifting the coal mining ban of the National Green Tribunal in the region if voted to power.

Coal mining ban has affected a large population in Jaintia Hills and is a huge issue for the region. The BJP has been accusing the Congress of doing little to lift the ban.

Ibobi Singh denies corruption charges

IMPHAL, Sept 10: Former Manipur Chief Minister O Ibobi Singh has said he would welcome investigation by any agency and cooperate with it in the alleged Rs 186.79 crore MDS scam.

Claiming that he was not involved in any "irregularity" in the MDS case and did not sign any "cheque," Ibobi Singh dared competent authorities to check the Manipur Development Society account and see "whether any cheque counter-signed by him was counter-signed by him was withdrawn money."

Chief Minister N Biren Singh had said yesterday that a CBI inquiry will be recom-

mended in the alleged MDS scam, in which Ibobi Singh has been booked, once the preliminary police investigation is completed.

Ibobi Singh told a press conference yesterday that the FIR, charging him of cheating, breach of trust and criminal conspiracy in connection with the alleged MDS scam, was "very unfortunate."

Ibobi Singh, who served as the CM from 2002 to March 2017 before Biren Singh joined government came to power, expressed dissatisfaction that the FIR was lodged without "any specific evidence."

The former CM had received an anticipatory bail in

time but to take necessary legal help." The former CM also claimed that the State Vigilance Commission was directed by him to conduct an inquiry into the alleged irregularities in the MDS, during his term as the CM, but it could not proceed further after the change of government in March this year.

Awaiting to media queries on the possible political motives in the case, Ibobi Singh said that he wanted the people to judge "whether it was politically motivated and a move to tarnish his image."

The MDS scam is related to alleged misappropriation of funds allotted to MDS for development of infrastructure for water sports in the Loktak lake. — PTI

an interim order after he appealed for the bail from the Manipur High Court on September 6. The court has fixed September 20 for the next hearing.

Meanwhile, the ongoing search at the residence of former project director of MDS Ningthem was carried out for the sixth day today. A police official said that some files were seized during the search operation.

The MDS scam is related to alleged misappropriation of funds allotted to MDS for development of infrastructure for water sports in the Loktak lake. — PTI

Manipur Speaker for a better democratic set up
CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, Sept 10: Manipur Speaker Yunnan Khemchand has asked the people to elect their representatives based on performance for a better democratic set up.

Addressing the inaugural function of a seminar on Media and Parliamentary Functioning at Assembly Complex here recently, the Speaker informed that the Assembly will try to open a training bureau for its staff.

Former Chief Minister Radhabihin Kojam, former opposition leader O Joy Singh and president of Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee TN Haokip also spoke in the seminar.

O Joy expressed his desire to have a proper dissemination of information regarding the performance of legislators and parliamentarians to the masses. Haokip shared his thoughts on 'Relation between Legislature and Media'.

In the post lunch session, former CM Kojam delivered a talk on parliamentary procedures while O Joy spoke on 'Reporting of the proceedings of the house and breach of privilege & contempt of the house.' More than 50 media persons including editors attended in this connection.

Heroin seized in Mizoram, 5 held

AIZAWL, Sept 10: Mizoram Excise and Narcotics department officials seized 236 grams of heroin from separate places here and arrested five persons on charges of smuggling heroin, a department spokesman said today.

The persons were arrested yesterday, the spokesman said. They were booked under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, he said.

The seized contraband worth around Rs 11.50 lakh was reportedly smuggled from neighbouring Myanmar via Champai district, the spokesman added. — PTI



Public leaders from hills presenting a spear and a shawl to Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh during Hill Leaders' Day in Imphal on Sunday. — Correspondent

Manipur CM attends hill leaders' day

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, Sept 10: Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Sunday said all the major roads across the State would be revamped after the rainy season is over. The filling up of potholes is still underway at many places including the 110 km Imphal-Mao section of National Highway 2, he informed.

Singh was speaking to reporters on the sideline of meeting public leaders during the monthly Hill Leaders' Day on Sunday. He had been meeting public leaders on two oc-

casions—Hill leaders' day on 10th day of every month and Meeyangi Numit (People's Day) on every 15th day.

Regarding air ambulance facility, he said that Governor Najma Heptulla has been taking keen interest in it. The Central Government is likely to take up necessary steps to launch the facility as soon as possible. An amount of Rs 24 crore had already been earmarked for the purpose.

Regarding healthcare facilities in hill districts, the Chief Minister informed that a 50-bedded hospital in Tamenglong

district headquarters is now ready for inauguration. To meet the manpower requirement in the State's healthcare sector, he said, 300 doctors would be recruited through Manipur Public Service Commission soon.

The photograph of the pathetic condition of a toilet in Tamei Higher Secondary School in Tamenglong district shocked the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister attended to around 173 complaints and met around 400 people during the Hill Leaders' Day which lasted for about four hours.

Tawang Maitree Diwas celebration begins

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, Sept 10: Tawang Maitree Diwas 2017 celebrated in Arunachal Pradesh got underway today with GOC 4 Corps Lt Gen AS Bedi inaugurating the two-day event at Tsangyang Gyatso High Altitude Stadium in Tawang.

Spiritual guru and Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju along with the chief patron of the event, Chief Minister Pema Khandu were scheduled to grace the inaugural function but could not make it owing to inclement weather.

However, in a message, the Chief Minister conveyed his greetings wishing grand suc-

cess of the event, terming it as a humble statement of friendly relation between the local populace and Indian Army.

Addressing the gathering, Lt Gen Bedi expressed happiness over the conduct of the event after a gap of six years and believed that the same would go a long way in strengthening the civil-military bond and also in deepening the feeling of patriotism amongst the local youths.

He assured that the Army would continue to work towards realising the dream of a self-reliant and dignified Arunachal.

In his speech, Parliamentary Secretary for RWD Jamley Tashi expressed his gratitude to the Indian Army for their

cooperation during the hour of crisis like natural calamities and other disasters, and assured that the people of Arunachal would always stand by them in all their endeavours.

On the occasion, Brigadier MP Singh, Commander, Station HQ Tawang was honoured with a certificate of commendation by Govt of Arunachal Pradesh as an acknowledgement of his contribution towards reaffirming people's confidence in Indian Army.

Spectators who had thronged the event were left spellbound by the might of military display and various cultural performances by school children, army personnel and cultural troupes.

Hardcore NSCN(R) cadre apprehended

ITANAGAR, Sept 10: Assam Rifles personnel apprehended a hardcore NSCN(R) cadre, identified as Hummai Taidong, from Old Changlang village in Arunachal Pradesh on Saturday along with a pistol and ammunition.

He has been an active member of the banned outfit since February 2015 and had undergone training at NSCN(R) training camp at Mon, in Nagaland, according to a Defence release here.

The release said, the Assam Rifles has been carrying out operations in south Arunachal Pradesh, and the operations launched last fortnight have resulted in elimination of two hardcore cadres, likely injury to three NSCN(R) cadre and apprehension of two hardcore cadres, besides busting of a temporary hideout and recovery of a cache of arms, ammunition, etc. — Correspondent

After a Central Executive Committee meeting held recently, INPT General Secretary Jagdish Debbarma said that it would not be possible to oust the Left Front. "Therefore, we are ready to forge an electoral alliance with INPT to defeat the Left in 2018 Assembly elections", he said, while addressing a press conference. However, the party first will

"As per the decision, the party will approach the BJP leadership for forging electoral understanding. However, the party will continue to stick to the key demand for protecting the rights of indigenous people", he said.

"A resolution seeking empowerment of TTAADC passed in the Assembly was sent to the Centre. Now, the responsibility lies with the Centre to provide more power to the tribal council", he said.

"The IPFT in its Central Committee meeting held on September 3, decided to go alone in the 2018 Assembly elections", said party's General Secretary Mavir Kumar Jamatia on Friday.



Flood and mudslide-hit paddy fields of Sorbung village in Manipur's Senapati district which had witnessed the worst flood in the last three decades during Augus-end, on Sunday. — Correspondent

'Baby Boom' policy advocated for Mizoram by Zoram Nationalist Party

CORRESPONDENT

AIZAWL, Sept 10: Decrying the Central Government's population control policy, Zoram Nationalist Party president Laldhoma has advocated a "Baby Boom" policy for Mizoram where the population density is 52 persons per square kilometre, against 382/sq km national average.

"Next only to Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram has the second lowest population density in India. Promoting population control in such a situation is one of the biggest blunders," Laldhoma said.

Even though India's birth

control policy as a whole, Laldhoma

said that low population alone does not lead to development.

"India was the first country to adopt Family Planning Policy in 1952. In the 1950s, India's population was 360 million. At that time, India imported a huge quantity of rice from America under the PL 480. Now, even though we are 1.200 million people, we produce surplus rice, which means that larger the number of workers, the

more we produce," he said.

About 17.5 per cent of world's

population live in India, and the

country's per capita income is US Dollar 3,290.

Laldhoma said that many countries have been remorseful about their birth control policy. "Many European countries have more and more aged people, due to expanding life span, while the population of work force is low. This poses threats to their economy and even national security. France has gone back to the baby boom policy," he said.

Even China, where 19.4 per cent

of world's population live,

has adopted a two-child policy from 2015, being well-aware of the benefits of high population.

"China's production by the

masses has put the country among

world's great economies, with a per

capita income at US Dollar 7,518,"

Laldhoma said.

Countries with high population

density like Japan has per capita income of US Dollar 33,828, while South Korea has US Dollar 27,791 per capita income, he asserted.

Singapore is just 648 sq km, about six times the size of Aizawl, and a population density of 7,000 persons per square kilometre. It does not have agricultural land, yet it is a rich country, Laldhoma pointed out.

Hongkong, with 1,070 sq km geographical land, is about 1/20th of Mizoram. Its population density is 6,500. It has a rich economy and the streets are not congested with traffic, he said.

Laldhoma said at the present rate of population growth of Mizoram, the State's population would be just 86.51 lakh in another hundred years.

"Many native tribes like Native Americans, Fijis, Tibetans, etc., have been and are being assimilated by those who are stronger in numbers. We have seen some tribes in our neighbouring States in North East who have met with the same fate. We need to be larger in numbers to survive," he said.

If his party is voted to power, it would take steps not to apply the Family Planning Programme in Mizoram, he asserted.

CAPSULE**Infosys hiring plans**

NEW DELHI, Sept 10: Unfazed by the recent upturns at the board, Infosys will continue to hire about 6,000 engineers annually over the next 1-2 years, same as last fiscal, Infosys interim CEO and MD Rajesh Prasad said at an investors meet last week. The country's second largest software services firm has also ramped up its hiring process in the US and European markets as it looks to tap opportunities and tide over visa-related issues. - PTI

Ultratech Cement

NEW DELHI, Sept 10: Ultratech Cement expects domestic cement demand to return to its "normal level" on government's push for infrastructure projects and upturn in rural housing, after weak volume growth in the past three to four quarters. Besides rapid urbanisation along with increased home loan interest and strong demand from IT/ITES parks in centres like Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad would also act as demand drivers for the cement industry, the Aditya Birla group firm said in an investor presentation. - PTI

Godrej Appliances

MUMBAI, Sept 10: Godrej Appliances, the consumer durables division of the Godrej Group, is eyeing a turnover of Rs 4,000 crore this fiscal, at growth of over 20 per cent. "We are targeting Rs 4,000 crore for the year 2017-18. April was good and after that May, June, July have got impacted because of GST. We are looking at a dip by 10 per cent. We expect this momentum to continue...." Godrej Appliances Business Head and Executive Vice-President Kamal Nandi told PTI.

Jockey India target

MUMBAI, Sept 10: Jockey India plans to double production capacity to 400 million pieces per annum in the next three years, according to a senior company executive. "As the brand expands in the country, we are looking to increase production. We are looking to double our production capacity from current 200 million pieces per annum to 400 million pieces by 2020," Page Industries Managing Director Sunder Genomal told PTI here.

Indian Terrain

NEW DELHI, Sept 10: Apparel brand Indian Terrain Fashion is eyeing over 20 per cent growth and is looking at adding 100 new stores in the current fiscal. "35 new retail counters are being planned in fiscal year 2018 across exclusive outlets and departmental stores. Pragmatic approach on specific markets and location will help ensure early wins and build momentum fast," the Chennai-based company said in an investor presentation. - PTI

Micromax Bharat-2

NEW DELHI, Sept 10: Home-grown handset maker Micromax has sold two million Bharat-2 smartphones by August-end. The company is working on expanding its Bharat Series with new models of smartphones. Bharat-2 plus, Bharat-3 and Bharat-4. Micromax said in a statement. These new phones will be available in offline retail stores in the next fortnight, it added. - PTI

Upcoming IPOs

NEW DELHI, Sept 10: Three companies – Matrimony.Com, Capric's InfraProjects and ICICI Lombard – will launch their initial share sale offers this week to raise about Rs 6,600 crore. The initial public offer (IPO) of Matrimony.Com will be open from September 11-13. Engineering firm Capric's InfraProjects' Rs 400-crore IPO will be launched on September 13, while the ICICI Lombard issue will be open for subscription during September 15-19. - PTI

General insurers allowed to sell policies via auto dealers sans tie-ups

MUMBAI, Sept 10: In a bid to offer more choices to customers, regulator IRDAI has allowed all general insurers to sell motor cover policies through auto dealer networks by offering different pricing.

The move, under the new guidelines, will offer customers choices in terms of pricing, apart from increasing competition among insurers to offer best price to customers.

Earlier it was mandatory for a customer to buy an auto insurance from an insurer with whom the auto dealer already has an exclusive arrangement.

An August 31 IRDAI circular recognised the role of auto dealers in distributing and servicing of motor policies along with a regulatory oversight over their activities connected to insurance.

The new norms came after IRDAI set up a committee to study motor dealer payouts. The com-

mittee submitted its report in May last year. Based on the report and interactions with insurers and other stakeholders, IRDAI framed the new norms.

United India Insurance, which gets

IRDAI move to offer customers choices in terms of motor insurance pricing and increase competition among insurers to offer best price to customers

40 per cent of its total premia from motor insurance, thinks the new regulations will not affect its new business coming in through auto dealers.

"We have tie-ups with almost all major car dealers and this channel is responsible for around 15 per

cent of our motor policies," United India Director MN Sharma told PTI.

When asked whether the new regulations will impact its new

business coming in from auto dealers, he answered in the negative but was quick to add that it may have some impact on the renewal premium income.

The IRDAI has also allowed higher commission for the auto dealers which would be paid by the insurer. For own damage cover, these dealers will be paid 19.5 per cent for cars, and 22.5 per cent for two-wheeler covers.

"The new guidelines are good as they bring robustness to the sector as this segment is responsible for over 40 per cent of our premium income," ICICI Lombard Managing

Director and Chief Executive Bharat Dasgupta said.

On the provision of differential pricing, he said it is very crucial for the segment to become more business-worthy.

A part of the industry feels that it is a landmark step by IRDAI to bring auto dealers under its purview.

Even as auto dealers have been doing this job for long, it is for the first time that their job is being recognised by the regulator in the form of the motor insurance service provider, Tapan Singhel, MD & CEO of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance said.

"Insurers who are not a part of auto networks so far, may also get an opportunity to sell their policies to the latter's customer. The new norms will also help them make use of underwriting principles to reward good customers," Sharad Mathur of SBI General said. - PTI

Auto-makers may pass on impact of cess hike to buyers

NEW DELHI, Sept 10: Auto-makers such as Toyota Kirloskar Motor, Mahindra and Mahindra, Audi, Mercedes-Benz and JLR India are planning to pass on to the customer the impact of increased cess on mid-sized and large cars along with SUVs, after the GST Council's decision to raise it by up to 7 per cent.

The companies said the constant changes in rates could lead to market instability and affect demand growth trends, expressing disappointment that the Council's decision "totally overlooked" their contribution to the industry and the economy.

"Following the ordinance on the GST amendment, we note the increase in cess from 2-7 per cent on mid-, large-sized cars and SUVs. We see the prices of our products going up proportionately, which may never reflect the post-GST scenario.... However, we are uncertain about the real price impact on our models, given the cess hike," Toyota Kirloskar Motor Vice-Chairman

and Whole-time Director Shekar Viswanathan said in a statement.

"These constant changes could lead to market instability and thus dampen the spirits of the industry across the entire value chain," Viswanathan added.

Mahindra and Mahindra MD Parwan Goenka said: "We are awaiting the exact definition of the categories. Whatever is the impact of the increased cess will reflect in the revised pricing from the effective date."

According to BMW Group India President Vikram Pawah, while the company welcomes the implementation of the goods and services tax (GST) in India, immediate changes and increase in motor vehicles cess adversely affect stability and growth of the automotive industry in India.

Others like Audi, Mercedes-Benz and JLR India have also expressed disappointment over the GST Council's decision to hike cess on mid-sized and large cars and SUVs by up to 7 per cent. - PTI

Electric vehicles

Govt must put in place a clear policy: Renault

NEW DELHI, Sept 10: The government has to put in place a clear policy and give the infrastructure ready to enable automobile manufacturers to prepare for the proposed switch to electric vehicles, according to French car major Renault.

Moreover, in order to fight pollution successfully, old cars need to be phased out for electric cars to give the desired result, Renault India MD Sumit Sawhney said.

"Electric is the future. It is inevitable. The question is what is going to be the timing," he told PTI when asked about Union Minister Nitin Gadkari's message to auto industry to prepare for alternative fuels or else would "handicape" them.

Sawhney, however, said it is critical to know the timeline for the planned switch to electric vehicles. "If they (government) want it to come fast, then they need to start creating infrastructure, clear policy, ecosystem and then you need to move towards that direction," he added.

Highlighting the need to phase out old polluting vehicles, he said: "It is the future. It is the need of the hour. We are looking forward to pan-India 4G VoLTE rollout and seeking spectrum from government," BSNL Chairman and Managing Director Anupam Srivastava told PTI.

Late last year, the telco had written to the Department of Telecom (DoT) to allocate airwaves in the 700 MHz band for roll out 4G services.

The company expects to get the government's approval soon for using airwaves in 700 MHz band for offering 4G and 5G services in the future.

BSNL would be required to to match the highest bidder's price to acquire the spectrum though historically it is not required to participate in auction.

However, given the high debt burden of the telecom sector, the proposed auction of spectrum in various bands may get delayed by a year.

The telco is likely to report a revenue of Rs 28,700 crore in 2016-17, against Rs 28,400 crore the year before despite stiff price war from Reliance Jio.

Srivastava said BSNL's balance sheet is least leveraged with just Rs 5,000 crore debt and the company is also aiming for profitability at net level in 2018-19.

He admitted that BSNL has been left behind but in the last few years, it is on a revival path as it ramps up its infrastructure backbone. - PTI

HMSI plans rural push to capture bigger pie

NEW DELHI, Sept 10: Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) is pushing hard for a bigger pie in the domestic bike segment with plans to open 70 per cent of its proposed 500 new outlets for this fiscal in rural markets to tap new buyers.

The company also plans to launch all-new motorcycle model for the Indian market in this ongoing fiscal in order to grow its market share in the bike segment from the 17 per cent at present.

"Although we must focus on both motorcycles and scooter segments, there is much potential for growth in the motorcycle segment. We would like to increase our market share in the vertical," HMSI President and CEO Minoru Kato told PTI.

The company is now second in terms of market share in the country after market leader Hero MotoCorp. In the scooter segment, it is the leader with 59 per cent market share.

When asked which segment the company focus on in the

bike segment to drive volume growth, Kato pointed out the 125 cc category.

On plans to introduce premium bikes, he said that customer demand and market size of premium bikes is growing in India and HMSI is "monitoring" the situation.

This fiscal, HMSI has set an ambitious target of selling 60 lakh units of two-wheelers, over 10 lakh units more than the last fiscal.

Terming it as a challenge, Kato said that expansion of sales network would play a big role in achieving the target.

The company aims to have 5,700 sales touch points by the end of this fiscal. At the end of the last fiscal, its tally stood at 5,200 outlets.

"We have set a target of adding another 500 outlets this fiscal. In the April-August period we have already opened 250 touch points. We will add 50 more this month," HMSI Senior VP Sales and Marketing Yaduvinder Singh Guleria said. - PTI



Minister of State for Development of North-Eastern Region (I/C), Prime Minister's Office, Public Grievances & Pensions, etc., Dr Jitendra Singh launching the website of the North East Tourism Development Council at the inaugural function of the 'North East Calling' event under 'Destination North-East Series', organised by the Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), in New Delhi on Saturday. - PIB

GST registration for TDS, TCS deductors from Sept 18

NEW DELHI, Sept 10: GST registrations for entities mandated to collect and deduct tax at source will start from September 18.

However, the date from which tax deducted at source (TDS) or tax collected at source (TCS) will be done will be notified later.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, at its 21st meeting in Hyderabad yesterday, decided to open registration of persons liable to deduct TDS and TCS from Sept 1 form a month to October 31.

As per the Central GST (CGST) Act, the notified entities are required to collect TDS at 1 per cent on payments to suppliers of goods or services in excess of Rs 2.5 lakh.

Also, e-commerce companies are required to collect 1 per cent

TCS while making payment to suppliers under GST, which kicked in from July 1.

Following industry demands, the government in June had decided to defer the TDS and TCS provisions for smooth rollout of GST.

Also, accommodating industry demands, the GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and comprising its State counterparts, yesterday decided to extend the deadline for filing TAN-1 form by a month to October 31.

TRAN-1 is to be filed by those businesses that want to claim credit for taxes paid before the launch of GST. This form can now be revised once by businesses in the case of any discrepancy.

According to States, the transition

period to implement the scheme will be required to file their returns for the July-September quarter by October 18 and pay their taxes. - PTI



Vivek Goyal (L), Deputy Country Head, Sonalika International Tractors, displaying new tractor models, in Lucknow on Saturday. - UNI

Blind hiring catching on in India, say experts

MUMBAI, Sept 10: To avoid biases related to region and gender, among others, organisations are now plumping for a 'blind hiring' strategy – where the focus is on recruiting a candidate with the right skill set, say industry experts.

Blind hiring is a process of recruitment where the premium is on skills and abilities rather than on soft skills, culture-fit and factors like region and gender.

"This method is slowly gaining ground in India, especially when a number of vacancies are to be filled and the role is at the entry level," CIEL HR Services CEO Aditya Shah

opined that blind hiring will lead to impartial selection, personal bias removal, gender parity, workplace diversity and development of a skilled meritocratic organisation.

"Corporate India is already seeing dearth in employable talent and this may also be due to its conven-

tional methods and expectations.

Adoption of this method will definitely bring in a different perspective and will increase the scope of talent pool in India," he explained.

However, he said, as firms in India have been using conventional recruitment or interviews

for years, this radical change on hiring will have its own challenges and a large workforce might make it more time-consuming and bulky.

Michael Page India Director Anshul Lodhi said this concept will work well for large business houses in India, large financial services companies and any organisation that is looking to hire mid-level employees in a large capacity.

"Speaking from experience,

blind hiring is suitable for candidates

who are applying for mid-

level jobs as opposed to entry-

level ones. For instance, in cases of

task with specific skills.

"This trend will be more evi-

dent in technology and new-age

businesses targeting those seg-

ments who do not want long-

term commitment with the firm," he added. - PTI

As per the latest auction sale (No 36) held at Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC) on September 5-7, the total tea offerings were 1,67,049 packages, out of which 73 per cent were sold. The market witnessed an overall good demand for all teas. Best category teas were barely steady while remainder teas tended easier according to quality. Major blenders lent active support while western India buyers operated on liquorising sorts. The auction average price for this week stood at Rs 150.08, up by Rs 5.02 from last year.

Top Garden Sold prices

BOP	Price	BP/BOPSPN	Price	OF/PF	Price
HALMARI	358	LURKWAH	250	SOKKALTINGA	245
SOKKALTINGA	236	LOHOPHIA	246	LURKWAH	236
BEHORA	231	MOHORNE	243	MADHUPUR	228
DULATINGA	230	DOOMDURULLING	242	DEHA	223
HALMARA	230	MADHUPUR	258	HALMARA	223

Secretary, Guwahati Tea Auction Buyers Association (GTABA)

J-K separatists call strike against Rajnath's visit

SRINAGAR, Sept 10: Normal life in Kashmir was today hit due to a strike called by separatist groups against the visit of Home Minister Rajnath Singh, even as the authorities continued restrictions in parts of Srinagar city for the second consecutive day as a precautionary measure.

While most of the public transport remained off the roads, some vehicles could be seen plying the roads in critical lines area of the city, officials said.

Shops and business establishments remained closed due to the strike called by separatist leaders Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Mohammad Yasin Malik.

"By observing the strike, the people of Kashmir will

prove to the world and the Indian leadership that by using military might against the people of Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel, Home Minister Rajnath Singh said during his interaction with cops in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

His announcement comes in the wake of the killing of six police personnel, including SHO Feroz Ahmad, in Achabal area of Anantnag district on June 16.

The slain SHO had requested for bullet-proof vehicle in view of the danger posed by militants in south Kashmir, but was not provided one.

"We have allocated funds for purchase of bullet-proof vehicles for Jammu and Kashmir Police," Singh said in Anantnag, 52 kms from here.

The Home Minister also said the Centre has approved funds for opening a trauma centre for police personnel and lauded them for working in "extremely challenging conditions" in the Valley.

He paid tributes to the sacrifice made by ASI Abdul Rashid and constable Intiaz, who were killed in militant attacks in south Kashmir recently.

"Their supreme sacrifices have been made for Kashmir. We are proud of the police personnel. You are working in extremely challenging conditions here. I do not have words to praise the bravery of our brave personnel from Jammu and Kashmir Police. Even the Prime Minister has praised your courage," he said. - PTI



Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh at a meeting with Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, in Srinagar on Saturday. - UNI

Govt focussed on strengthening armed forces:

Sitharaman

BARMER (Rajasthan), Sept 10: Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said that the Government's priority was to strengthen all the three armed forces.

There would not be any dearth of effort on the part of the Government to strengthen the defence forces, she told a gathering of India Air Force personnel here.

The 58-year-old Defence Minister said, "I am obeying Prime Minister Narendra Modi's directions to meet the jawaans posted on the frontiers."

"I was in Goa earlier in the morning to flag off Indian Navy women crew's attempt to circumnavigate the globe and now have come to Utar-lai Air Force base in Barmar," she said.

The newly-appointed Defence Minister said that Utar-lai air base was important from the strategic point of view.

Sitharaman reached Utar-lai air base on a special plane and was given guard of honour. She was received by Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa. - PTI

Incident-free day in Darjeeling, shops remain open

DARJEELING (West Bengal), Sept 10: The situation in Darjeeling remained tense, but incident-free as the indefinite shutdown in the hills today entered its 88th day.

A large number of shops were open in the Darjeeling hills today braving threats and intimidation by the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM).

The police and administration for the second day appealed to the locals through the public address system to open their shops and restore normalcy in the hills.

Peace rallies were taken out by the residents of Kurseong, Darjeeling and Mirik demanding restoration of peace in the hills.

Expelled GJM leader Anit Thapa also took out a peace rally near Kurseong.

State Tourism Minister and senior TMC leader Gautam Deb took out a peace rally in the hills. The search operation by police to trace Gurung was under way. - PTI

Return was most difficult, recalls Major who led surgical strikes



NEW DELHI, Sept 10: The surgical strikes across the LoC were precise and conducted at frenetic pace, but the Major who led the daredevil mission, says that the return was the most difficult part and bullets fired by the enemy soldiers were so close that these were bursting past the ears.

The Army Major speaks about the stunning mission in a new book being brought out on the first anniversary of surgical strikes in Pakistan occupied Kashmir.

The officer is referred to as Major Mike Tango in the book, titled *India's Most Fearless: True Stories of Modern Military Heroes*.

The Army had decided to use soldiers from the units that had suffered losses in the Uri attack for the elaborate revision mission.

A Ghatka platoon was formed and soldiers from the two units that had lost men were roped in to man border posts and provide crucial terrain

intelligence and support to the mission that lay ahead.

"Tactically, this was a smart move - we knew the layout of the frontier land better than they did. But there was another astute reason.

"Involving them in the mission would at least begin to lay the ghosts of Uri to rest," says the book.

About the details of the planning, it says, "The target list was scrutinised along a top-secret chain of command that numbered barely a handful of people with 'need to know' rules applicable throughout."

"The options were vetted by designated officers from the Intelligence Bureau and the Research and Analysis Wing, before a final recommended brief was presented to the Government."

Maj. Tango was entrusted with the job of leading the operation to carry out the strikes.

"As team leader Major Tango had chosen every man himself, including

the officers and men who would play a supporting role, he was also acutely aware of the fact that the lives of 19 men were, quite literally, in his hands," the book says.

Though Major Tango chose the best men for the job, one thing was bothering him - the de-induction or the return.

"That's where I knew I could lose guys," the book quotes him as recalling.

"Even the actual attack was not something that fluttered the commandos. It was the return, that was an uphill trek to the LoC, that was the truly daunting part."

"Their backs would be facing a blaze of fire from Pakistan Army posts, belatedly roused from their slumber. And the dominant position held by the posts would make the escaping warriors easier targets to spot and kill," the book says.

A total of four terror launch pads operated by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and protected by the Pakistani Army were selected.

"Through a series of masked communications over mobile, Major Tango's team contacted four 'assets' - two local villagers in PoK and two Pakistani nationals operating in the area - both moles in the dreaded Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist group, men who had been turned by Indian agencies a few years before.

"All the four assets separately confirmed the target information that was placed before them. In terms of intelligence, there was nothing further for the team to do on this side of the LoC," the book says.

The book, written by Shiv Aroor and Rahul Singh and published by Penguin

India, tells 14 true stories of extraordinary courage and fearlessness, providing a glimpse into the kind of heroism India's soldiers display in unthinkable hostile conditions and under grave provocation.

The mission was brief - the soldiers were expected to reach their targets, study the latest intelligence they could possibly access with their satellite devices and then proceed to wipe out every man they saw there, the book says.

The weapons and equipment were then finalised.

"Major Tango would be armed with his M4A1 5.56-mm carbine, the rest of the assault team with a mix of M4A1s and standard-issue Israeli Tavor TAR-21 assault rifles, Instala C90 disposable grenade launchers and Galil sniper rifles. Batteries on night-vision equipment were checked and other devices were charged too," the book says.

Two of the terror launch pads identified as targets for Major Tango's team were well inside PoK and roughly 500 metres away from each other, it says.

"Each launch pad is really a transit staging area for terrorist infiltrators before they are sent across the LoC. Both launch pads were close to Pakistan Army posts for logistical and administrative purposes. ISI handlers would often visit these launch pads before infiltration attempts," according the book.

"From the moment the fire fight began until the last bullet was fired, it had been just over an hour. The frenetic pace of the assault meant the teams, now united after the split attack on two launch pads, would prepare to leave with

only a very rough estimate of the number of terrorists they had managed to kill: 20. The figure would be corroborated days later by India's external intelligence.

"A total of 38-40 terrorists and two Pakistan Army personnel were killed at the four targets. The three separate teams had simultaneously struck 4 launch pads across the LoC. Their entry into PoK had been coordinated and precisely timed," it says.

As for the return, the Major decided to take not the route used to enter PoK, but a different path that was longer and more circuitous, but comparatively safe.

While the Indian soldiers were returning, the Pakistan Army posts opened fire with everything they had - enraged by the cross-border strike.

"At one point, the bullets were so close, they were whistling past our ears. There's a familiar put-put sound when rounds fly very close to your head," Major Tango recalls.

"If I were a foot taller, I would have been hit many times over."

During the circuitous escape, the men were frequently flat on the ground as trees in their path were shredded to bits by hauls of ammunition, the book says.

"A particularly vulnerable 60-metre patch in the de-induction route gave the commandos their closest call. Still flat on their bellies, but with no natural feature hiding them, they needed to slither the full distance without being hit. Crossing in pairs as ammunition hit the ground inches from them, Major Tango's team made it to the LoC before the sun was up, finally crossing it at 04:30 hours." - PTI

Find ways to mitigate flood problem: Gadkari to officials

NEW DELHI, Sept 10: Days after assuming charge of the Water Resources Ministry, Nitin Gadkari has asked officials to find ways to mitigate flood situation in parts of the country and look for cost-effective ways for implementation of water conservation and irrigation projects.

Gadkari, who replaced Uma Bharti in the Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Ministry in the recent Cabinet reshuffle, has also asked bureaucrats to frame a policy on using recycled water, official sources said.

"In one of the meetings, he expressed concerns over the damage caused to lives and properties by flooding in the country every year. He has suggested

taking cost-effective measures to combat inundations by using available resources like dredged material/sand to begin with," a source said.



Among the suggestions he made was the construction of protection walls in perennially flooded areas to prevent damage to properties and lives.

On flooding in Assam caused by the

Brahmaputra, the Minister was told that the issue could not be resolved until a major dam, like the proposed Middle Siang, was constructed, the sources said.

"This is mainly because the volume of the river's discharge is so huge that only a big dam can solve the issue," the source said.

The Centre has been pursuing the Assam and Arunachal Pradesh governments for their nod for construction of the project, which will produce 9,600 megawatts of power and help control floods caused by the Brahmaputra.

Flooding in Assam has claimed 158 lives so far this year, while 482 people have died in Bihar till August-end. - PTI

Alternative to interlinking river waters mooted

NEW DELHI, Sept 10: With the interlinking of rivers being a sticky issue, an expert has suggested an alternate mechanism for sharing of river waters which could be more efficient in terms of irrigation and power generation.

Interlinking of rivers is "not possible as many States are against it", said Professor AC Kamraj, Chairman of the National Waterways Development Technology (NAWAD TECH).

He said the Government should alternatively consider the National Waterways Project (NWP) which "eliminates" friction between States over the sharing of river waters since it uses only the excess flood water that goes into the sea utilised.

The Central Government wants to

interlink 60 rivers at a cost of USD 87 billion. It also wants to work on the Ken-Betwa link, "but the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister is not ready", claimed the professor who has worked on the issue for long.

Like Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are fighting over the sharing of Cauvery river water, the linking of Ken and Betwa rivers could prove a point of contention between Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, he cautioned.

He said a proposal to link the Ganga and the Cauvery was first mooted during the Jawaharlal Nehru Government, but it could not be implemented as it involved heavy pumping to divert the water of the Ganga down south, across the Vindhya mountain range.

"The Indira Gandhi Government also took up a project to interlink 30 rivers. The National Water Development Agency was set up in 1982 for this purpose, but it could not do much, barring a few detailed project reports (DPRs)," Kamraj said.

"We have spent 35 years only on studying various projects and DPRs," he rued.

He said in interlinking of rivers, water flows from one end to another and hence if Godavari gives water to Krishna, the latter benefits.

"But as per our proposal, water from a river in spate will flow to the other. It works on a give-and-take policy and acts like a water grid, similar to a power grid," Kamraj said.

KNOWING ASSAM THROUGH QUIZZING

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1st Prize Rs. 51,000/-
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Jansansayog D/7441/17

Irma regains Category 4 force; Indian missions set up helpline

WASHINGTON, Sept 10: Millions of people, including thousands of Indian-Americans, in Florida braced for "life-threatening" Hurricane Irma which hit the state's southern islands today as a Category four storm after leaving a trail of destruction across the Caribbean.

It is expected to pummel the low-lying Florida Keys with winds reaching 130mph, before travelling north-west up Florida's Gulf Coast.

More than 6.3 million people were told to evacuate Florida, with warnings of a huge storm surge that would be "life-threatening" to anyone in its path.

Irma has already devastated parts of the Caribbean with at least 25 deaths. About 60 Indian nationals are being evacuated from the vacation island of St Martin in the Caribbean.

The eye of the Category 4 storm was

24 kilometers southeast of Key West.

The eye is a region of mostly calm weather at the center of strong tropical cyclones.

Around 120,000 Indian-Americans reside across Florida while thousands of them live in the now-dangerous zones



cyclones. The eye of a storm is a roughly circular area, typically 30-65 km in diameter.

of Miami, Fort Lauderdale and Tampa. Miami and Tampa appeared "ghost towns" as nervous residents, many of

whom struggled to cope with abandoning their homes, moved to safer places following mandatory evacuation notices.

The National Weather Service (NWS) said *Irma* regained strength as a Category 4 storm - after being downgraded to Category 3 for more than 12 hours - as it moved to Florida.

The Indian embassy in the US has opened a round-the-clock helpline number and rushed senior diplomats to Atlanta to lead relief efforts for Indian-American stuck in the region.

The hotline number is 202-258-8819. Embassy officials said India's Ambassador to the US Navtej Sarna was closely monitoring the situation.

Sandeep Chakravorty, India's consul-general in New York, was in Atlanta overseeing preparation for relief efforts from a 24x7 control room. - PTI

Rohingya rebels call 1-month Myanmar ceasefire

COX'S BAZAR (Bangladesh), Sept 10: Rohingya militants, who sparked an army crackdown in Myanmar that has seen nearly 300,000 Rohingyas flee to Bangladesh, today declared a unilateral ceasefire to allow aid to reach the increasingly desperate refugees.

The United Nations said 294,000 bedraggled and exhausted Rohingya refugees have arrived in Bangladesh since the militants' attacks on Myanmar security forces in Rakhine state on August 25 sparked a major military backlash.

Tens of thousands more are believed to be on the move inside Rakhine after more than a fortnight without shelter, food and water.

Three Rohingyas are reported to have been killed by a

militia near the border allegedly killed by Myanmar security forces to stop the fugitives returning.

Mainly Buddhist Myanmar does not recognise its stateless Muslim Rohingya community, labelling them as "counties".

It urged "all humanitarian actors" to resume aid delivery to "all victims of humanitarian crisis irrespective of ethnic or religious background" during the one-month ceasefire period until October 9.

ARSA called on Myanmar to "reciprocate this humanitarian pause" in fighting.

There was no immediate response from Myanmar's military, but yesterday authorities said they would set up three relief camps in Rohingya-majority areas. - AFP

"Bengalis" - illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

A further 27,000 ethnic Rakhine Buddhists as well as Hindus have also fled violence that has gripped the northern

60 Indian nationals being evacuated from St Martin

WASHINGTON, Sept 10:

About 60 Indian nationals are being evacuated from the island of St Martin in the Caribbean, which has been devastated by Hurricane Irma, an extremely powerful storm that wreaked havoc in the region.

Most of the Indian nationals

have had a transit visa, a temporary short period visa, to the US.

For those who do not have a transit visa, Indian Embassy here is working with the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security for getting them one, so that they can take the first available flight to the US and then travel back home.

The State Department yesterday said it has evacuated some 1,200 of US citizens from the Caribbean island St Martin.

An estimated 2,500 Americans are still trapped on this small island that is jointly administered by France and the Netherlands.

More than 1,100 police, military officials and others were

deployed to St Martin and the nearby French Caribbean territory of St Barts, where they used helicopters to identify the care of people looting stores and homes.

Deputy Indian Ambassador to the US Ashwosha Jha said over the last 48 hours the main pre-occupation has been to get in touch with Indians in all parts of southern US and in the islands in the western Atlantic.

"And think we should today recognise that they are in the situation of great difficulty," he said.

"We had (hurricane) Harvey just the previous month in Houston and today we are trying to cope up with the Hurricane Irma in Florida. The entire embassy since this morning has been working on that," he said.

India, he said, over the last few years, have mounted to evacuate Indians and people of Indian-origin from various countries of the world - Iraq, Libya, Yemen and Syria. - PTI



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends an exhibition on information technology as he visits the company ER-Telecom Holding in Perm, Russia. - UNI

Keeping dogs in bedroom helps you sleep better: study

NEW YORK, Sept 10: Letting your pets sleep in your bedroom can be comforting, say scientists who found that people sleep better with their dogs nearby.

However, sharing the bed and snuggling with pets may negatively affect sleep quality, the study found.

Researchers at Mayo Clinic in the US evaluated the sleep of 40 healthy adults without sleep disorders and their dogs over five months.

Participants and their dogs wore activity trackers to track their sleeping habits for seven nights.

Sleeping with dogs helps some people sleep better - no matter if they are snoozing with a small schnauzer or dozing with a Great Dane, researchers said.

They found that adults who snuggled up to their pups in bed sacrificed quality sleep.

"Do not let your canines crawl under the covers with you. The sleep benefit extends only to having dogs in your bedroom - not in



"Today, many pet owners are away from their pets for much of the day, so they want to maximise their time with them when they are home," Krahn said.

"Having them in the bedroom at night is an easy way to do that. And, now, pet owners can find comfort knowing it won't negatively impact their sleep," she said. - PTI



অসম চৰকাৰ
প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষা বিভাগ

‘প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষা সৱলীকৰণ আঁচনি’ৰ অধীনত

নৰ-নিযুক্ত প্ৰাথমিক পৰ্যায়ৰ শিক্ষকৰ নিযুক্তি পত্ৰ বিতৰণ অনুষ্ঠান তথা প্ৰশিক্ষণ কাৰ্যসূচী

শিশুক গুণগত শিক্ষা প্ৰদানৰ উদ্দেশ্যে ৰাজ্য চৰকাৰৰে গ্ৰহণ কৰা পদক্ষেপৰ অংশ

হিচাপে প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষা বিভাগৰ অধীনত প্ৰাথমিক পৰ্যায়ত ‘শিক্ষামিত্ৰ’ৰ বাবে অনুষ্ঠিত

বিশেষ টেট’ উত্তীৰ্ণ প্ৰার্থীক নিযুক্তি পত্ৰ প্ৰদান কৰা হ’ব।

তদুপলক্ষে ১২ ছেপ্টেম্বৰ, ২০১৭ তাৰিখে অনুষ্ঠিতব্য নিযুক্তি পত্ৰ বিতৰণ তথা এদিনীয়া প্ৰশিক্ষণ

অনুষ্ঠানলৈ সমৃহ নৰ-নিযুক্ত প্ৰার্থীক নিজৰ ‘টেট’ উত্তীৰ্ণৰ প্ৰমাণ পত্ৰৰ সৈতে দুপৰীয়া ১২-০০ বজাত

নিম্ন উল্লিখিত প্ৰশিক্ষণস্থলীত উপস্থিত হ’বলৈ অনুৰোধ জনোৱা হ’ল।

মুখ্য অতিথি

ড. হিমন্ত বিশ্ব শৰ্মা

মাননীয় শিক্ষামন্ত্ৰী, অসম

প্ৰশিক্ষণস্থলী : গুৱাহাটী চিকিৎসা মহাবিদ্যালয় প্ৰেক্ষাগৃহ, গুৱাহাটী - ৫

সময় : দুপৰীয়া ১২-০০ বজাত

অৰূপ বাজোৱিয়া, আই. এ. এছ
মিছন সঞ্চালক, সৰ্বশিক্ষা অভিযান, অসম



সকলোৱে পঢ়ো সকলোৱে আগবঢ়ো

প্ৰিতম শইকীয়া, আই. এ. এছ

আয়ুক্ত সচিব, প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষা বিভাগ

অসম চৰকাৰ



FC Barcelona's Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring during the Spanish La Liga match against Espanyol at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on Saturday.

Messi nets 3 as Barca rout Espanyol 5-0

MADRID, Sept 10: Lionel Messi's hat-trick saw Barcelona move four points clear of Real Madrid at the top of La Liga as Ousmane Dembele marked his debut with an assist in a 5-0 rout of local rivals Espanyol.

Earlier, Madrid paid for the absence of the suspended Cristiano Ronaldo and a series of missed chances by Gareth Bale as they were held to a shock 1-1 home draw by newly-promoted Levante.

Barca made no such mistake as for all their early season off-field problems, Ernesto Valverde's men have taken maximum points from their opening three La Liga games.

Messi led the way with a virtuous

performance, but his opener also needed a huge slice of luck as he was wrongly not flagged offside from Ivan Rakitic's through ball before blasting into the top corner.

Dembele has the unenviable task of replacing the departed Neymar and Barca's 105 million-euro man had to wait until 22 minutes from time for his debut as he replaced Gerard Deulofeu to a standing ovation.

"It is a privilege to play with the best player in the world," said Suarez.

"Game-by-game he keeps showing that Messi will be around for a long time to come."

Messi put the outcome beyond any

doubt by rounding off his hat-trick with another sharp finish from Alba's cut-back.

Dembele has the unenviable task of replacing the departed Neymar and Barca's 105 million-euro man had to wait until 22 minutes from time for his debut as he replaced Gerard Deulofeu to a standing ovation.

He showed why Barca have made the 20-year-old the third most expensive player ever as his pinpoint cross was swept home by Suarez to round off the scoring after Gerard Pique had headed home Barca's fourth.

However, even a fine display didn't dissuade the bad feeling towards Barca's under-fire board af-

ter a chaotic summer in the transfer market and splits between the boardroom and the dressing room, with Messi and Andres Iniesta yet to sign extensions to their contracts which expire in 2018.

Suarez's fifth goal was met with chants for president Josep Maria Bartomeu to reign.

Atletico Madrid also trail Barca by four points as without the suspended Antoine Griezmann they drew a blank in an intense 0-0 draw at Valencia.

Sevilla moved up to second, just two points behind the leaders, as goals from Paulo Henrique Ganso, Wissam Ben Yedder and Nolito secured a 3-0 win over Eibar. — AFP

Real Madrid lose 2 points after 1-1 draw vs Levante

MADRID, Sept 10: Real Madrid lost two points after a 1-1 home draw against Levante in the third round of La Liga football championship at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium here on Saturday.

Spanish forward Ivan Lopez Alvarez, known as Ivi, opened scoring for Levante just 12 minutes into the match, reports Efe.

Spanish winger Lucas Vazquez scored the equaliser for defending champions Real Madrid in the 36th minute. Vazquez poked home after Sergio Ramos' header was saved off a corner.

Real Madrid's Brazilian defender Marcelo was sent off in the 89th minute for aggressive behavior.

It was Madrid's second draw in three matches after they were held 2-2 by Valencia in the previous match at the Santiago Bernabeu.

After this draw, Real Madrid are provisionally in the fourth position with five points, while Levante hold the fifth place in the La Liga standings with the same number of points. — IANS



Real Madrid's Marcelo (right) battles for the ball with Levante's David Renesero during their Spanish La Liga match at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on Saturday.

El Clasico match postponed

KOLKATA, Sept 10: The much-hyped El Clasico match between Real Madrid and Barcelona, slated to be held in Mumbai on September 15, has been postponed due to unavailability of some players, said the organisers here today.

"There has been some availability issues with the players, so as of now it's not happening on September 15. It will now be held tentatively in first week of October ahead of the World Cup," one of the organisers said here today.

However, there is a huge uncertainty over the match taking place in the near future, a Mumbai-based official said on condition of anonymity.

"It's World Cup time in October and there's little chance of the match happening now," he told PTI.

"It's World Cup time in October and there's little chance of the match happening now," one of the organisers told PTI.

Legends of Spanish giants Barcelona and Real Madrid were to play an exhibition match in memory of Dutch legend and Barcelona star Johan Cruyff, it was announced by Football Next Foundation in a statement in May.

An agreement was signed at the Santiago-Bernabeu stadium, home of Real Madrid, and former India forward Dipendu Biswas was named the brand ambassador. — PTI

FIFA, AFC officials to visit Kolkata

KOLKATA, Sept 10: World football's governing body FIFA and Asian Football Confederation (AFC) officials will visit the city on September 13 and 14 to meet the state association and East Bengal and Mohun Bagan officials to discuss the way forward as to how there can be one league in the country from 2018.

"Unless AITA makes it compulsory, players such as Yuki Bhambhani, Rakesh Ranjan, Ramamathan, Rohan Bopanna or Ankita Raina won't come despite the fact that winning the national championship now is exacting," Chatterjee told PTI.

The national champion gets

Rs 5 lakh from the organisers

and Rs 5 lakh as a grant

from the government. When calculated together, Rs 10 lakh is

two times more than what a

player gets after winning a

USD 50,000 ATP Challenger,

where the title winner gets

USD 7200 (aprox Rs 4.5

lakh). — PTI

"But it's entirely up to the players. The established players can skip. There will be incentives for the nationals winners like wild cards in the main draw of international events. It's up to them, if they want to avail these incen-

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A two-member team com-

prising of Nic Coward, a con-

sultant to FIFA, and Alex Phillips,

Head of AFC-Uefa Af-

fairs, is expected to meet the

stakeholders of Indian football

this month.

Besides Kolkata, they

would also meet all clubs from

the Indian Super League (ISL)

and the I-League sec-

ond division with the dele-

gates expected to travel to

Delhi, Chennai, Goa, Mumbai,

Guwahati and back to the na-

tional capital.

A few months back, a meet-

ing in Kuala Lumpur was held

discuss the way forward for

Indian football which this sea-

son will witness the ISL and

the I-League running simul-

taneously. — IANS

AITA wants top players for Nationals but won't force them

NEW DELHI, Sept 10:

Desperate to raise the profile of the National Championships, the AITA will recommend the country's top players to compete in the event, but it is highly unlikely they would pay heed to it since the federation is willing to exempt the "established" players.

The AITA issued an advisory on August 31, saying that it is now mandatory for the players to participate in the nationals to not only become eligible for the government grants but also for getting picked in the Indian team, unless exempted by the federation.

The ministry has not exactly directed the AITA to ensure participation of top players but has indicated that it would like to see participation of the best players.

AITA contends that if top players come and play the nationals will become easier for the federation to get financial assistance from the government.

"They contend that if top players come and play the nationals will become easier for the government to get financial assistance for the national champion," AITA Secretary General Hironmoy Chatterjee told PTI.

"But it's entirely up to the players. The established players can skip. There will be incentives for the nationals winners like wild cards in the main draw of international events. It's up to them, if they want to avail these incen-

tives," he added.

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lakh). — PTI

Thapa wants U-17 WC to be played in front of packed crowd

see India qualify for the World Cup. So it's a great opportunity for all of us to support and celebrate the occasion."

"We have seen I-league matches in empty stadiums. It should not be the case in U-17 World Cup. Go to schools, give the children free tickets and ensure that they come and watch all the matches. It should look like a World Cup," Thapa told PTI in an interview here.

"U-17 World Cup is a gift to the Indian football. FIFA also wants to popularise football and they know India is large market and a growing economy,"

U-17 World Cup is a gift to the Indian football. FIFA also wants to popularise football and they know India is large market and a growing economy.

The Local Organising Committee has expressed concern over the lukewarm response in venues like Delhi and Goa though the sale of tickets has picked up recently.

Thapa asked the organisers

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3	7	11	12	1	4	5	2	10	9
5	10	4	11	12	1	6	3	2	7
2	9	12	4	10	7	6	11	1	8
7	11	12	1	5	3	4	2	10	9
1	11	12	6	10	7	8	5	3	4
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Jubilant Sloane Stephens displays the trophy after winning the US Open title in New York on Sunday.

Keeping Kohli quiet would be key: Smith

CHENNAI, Sept 10: Steve Smith reckons India keeping home captain Virat Kohli "quiet" would be key for Australia to in the upcoming ODI series against India and promised that the contest will be played in "good spirit".

Kohli is red-hot form as he was the highest run-getter in the five-match series against Sri Lanka with a tally of 330 runs, which included two centuries and a fifty.

The Indian captain recorded his 30th ODI century during his splendid haul in the Island nation, equaling Australian great Ricky Ponting's record.

Smith said he was not too concerned about the gulf between him and the home captain but to be successful in this series, they will have to get Kohli out cheaply. "I am not too concerned about the differences with Kohli. He is obviously a very good player and has a phenomenal ODI record. Hopefully, we can keep him quiet as much as possible in this series," Smith told reporters after a practice session. —PTI

Jadeja slips to No. 2 in ICC Test rankings

DUBAI, Sept 10: India's left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja has lost his top spot after sliding a place to be at the second position in the ICC Test bowlers' rankings, released here today. Jadeja's teammate Ravichandran Ashwin, meanwhile, retained his third spot in the table, which is now headed by

England pacer James Anderson. Anderson has climbed to the top of the chart, owing to his superb effort in the third and final Test at Lord's, which England won by nine wickets to seal the series 2-1 over the West Indies.

In the batsmen's list,

Cheteshwar Pujara continues

to be the top-ranked Indian at No. 4, followed by captain Virat Kohli at No. 6. Both KL Rahul and Ajinkya Rahane climbed up the ladder by a place each to be ninth and tenth positions, respectively.

Australia's Steve Smith

continues to be the No. 1 batsman in the rankings chart. —PTI



Hayna Club bag title

TIIU, Sept 10: Hayna Club of Subankhata emerged champions in the Debendra Nath Barman and Mahesh Ch Das Memorial Football Championship defeating 24th IRB of Saramari by 6-5 goals in the tie break after playing 1-1 draw in the final at the Kaitalkuchi High School playground today.

The tournament was organised by the Uttar Dhamapur Anchalik Krira Santha, Suban of Haina Club was adjudged best player of the final match.

Book on int'l athletics

SPORTS REPORTER
GUWAHATI, Sept 10: A book on international athletics, written in Assamese by noted sports writer Lokeswar Gogoi was released in a function at the Guwahati Press Club today.

Titled *Antarctic Athletes*, the book was jointly released by international athlete Tayabun Nisha and veteran sportsperson Col Ghana Gogoi.

Udayaditya Bharali, former principal of Cotton College was the chief guest in the function. Speaking on the occasion Bharali said there should be a proper system in order to produce international medal winning athletes. "At present, in our country there is no such system through which India can produce good number of Olympic medalists," he said. Apart from having quality infrastructure, there should be co-operation among sportspersons, organisers and policy makers, he added.

Tayabun, while releasing the book said, sportspersons should work hard and be committed to get result. Sports organiser Nagenra Nath Barman was also present on the occasion.

The book, which contains detail elaboration of the internationally famed athletes, is published by Natun Ason.

Kolkata school champs in CBSE chess

GUWAHATI, Sept 10:

Lakshmipti Singhaia Academy, Kolkata emerged overall champions in the CBSE Far East Zone Chess Championship which was hosted by the Royal Global School, here from September 7 to 9 at the school premises.

The competition was held in the age category of U-11 (mixed & girls) U-14 (mixed & girls) U-17 (mixed & girls) and U-19 (mixed & girls) were held in Swiss League team format.

Altogether 172 players from 21 schools of Assam, West Bengal and Orissa participated

in this 3-day event.

The tournament was conducted by a team of 7 FIDE and National Arbiters led by Lakshmipti Singhaia (Assam) as the Chief Arbiter. Santanu Lahiri (Kolkata), Nandan Buragohain, Y Dhanbari Singh, Monimala Sinha, Salina Masum and Rakainti Tiwari (all from Assam) were the other arbiters.

The final results: U-11 mixed group Champion: Smilla Biria Gyoti; U-14 Girls Champion: Indu Dey; Best Singer School, Academy, Kolkata, 3rd; Don Bosco School, Guwahati; (U-11 girls group) Champion: Lakshmipti Singhaia Academy, Kolkata, 2nd; Royal Global School, Guwahati; (U-14 mixed group) Champion: Lakshmipti Singhaia Academy, Kolkata.

Sikkim emerged champions in the girls U-17 and 19 categories respectively.

Sobhad Das, director, SOS Children's Village, Guwahati was the chief guest in the closing function.

The prizes were given away

by the chief guest, Dr NK Dutta, founder and principal of the host MBR'S and Nandini Dutta, secretary, Miles Bronson Residential School.

The final results: Team champions (U-17 Boys) Saini School, Guwahati; (U-17 Girls) Miles Bronson Model Residential School

CBSE basketball tourney concludes

GUWAHATI, Sept 10: The CBSE Cluster-I U-17 and 19 Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament, being hosted and organised by the Miles Bronson Residential School (MBRS), Borjhar, came to an end yesterday.

Sainik School, Goalpara and St Francis De Sales (SFS), Narenji won the titles in the boys U-17 and 19 categories while Miles Bronson Residential School, and Ekayaka Model Residential School



International athlete Tayabun Nisha (centre) flanked by Udayaditya Bharali (3rd right) and Col Ghana Gogoi (2nd left) releasing the book – Antarctic Athletics in Guwahati on Sunday.

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Editor: Prabhakar Govinda Baruah

Stephens drubs Keys for US Open title

NEW YORK, Sept 10: Sloane Stephens, sidelined for 11 months by a left foot injury until returning in July, captured her first Grand Slam title by routing fellow American Madison Keys 6-3, 6-0 in US Open final.

Stephens took a \$3.7 million (3.07 million euros) top prize from the biggest victory of her career, pitted against one of her closest friends in the first all-New Zealand final since 2002 on the New York hardcourts.

With the 15th victory in her past 17 matches, Stephens became only the fifth unseeded player to win a women's Slam title, although Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko managed the feat at this year's French Open.

The only prior unseeded US Open women's champion was Kim Clijsters, who came back from retirement to reach the 2009 title.

Stephens made only six unforced errors in the match to 30 for Keys, who had 18 winners to 10 for the champion. It was the final set of a US Open women's championship match where the loser didn't take a game since Chris Evert beat Evonne Goolagong 6-3, 6-0 in 1976.

Presented with the winner's check, Stephens said, "That's a lot of money. Wow," but then handed the check envelope to best pal Keys, who sat next to after the victory rather than



Murray-Hingis duo win mixed doubles title

NEW YORK, Sept 10: Top seeds Jamie Murray of Britain and Swiss Martina Hingis won their second successive Grand Slam mixed doubles tennis title with a 6-1, 4-6, 10-8 victory over Michael Venus of New Zealand and Chinese Taipei's Chan Hao-Ching in the final.

Murray and Hingis had already won Wimbledon in July while Saturday's triumph took their record as a team to a perfect 10-0, reports Xinhua news agency. —IANS

on opposite sides of the umpire's chair, to take hold of the winner's trophy.

Keys, seeded 15th, and 83rd-ranked Stephens each fought off injuries to reach the title showdown.

Stephens returned to Wimbledon and slid to 957th in world rankings before semifinal runs at US Open tuneups in Toronto and Cincinnati, while Keys underwent her second left wrist surgery after the French Open and won a tuneup title at Stanford.

Stephens will jump to 17th in Monday's world rankings while Keys, who took home \$1.25 million as runner-up, will rise to 12th.

In the first set, Stephens broke to seize a 3-2 lead, Keys swatting a forehand beyond the baseline to surrender the game, and Stephens broke again when Keys sent a backhand long to take the set after 30 minutes. —AFP

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