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NEWS CAPSULE

Asphyxiation

GUWAHATI, April 8: Two persons, including a minor, died due to asphyxiation while they were trying to clean an abandoned well located in Niligori Nagar of Lalgunia under Gorukh police station this afternoon. Police identified the deceased labourers as Nirajbari Talukdar (45) and Chintadeep Baruah (14). Both the deceased were hired by a Sankha Nath to clean the well which was lying unused for quite some time. — Staff Reporter

The Assam Tribune on Internet
<http://www.assamtribune.com> &
<http://epaper.assamtribune.com>

India, Bangladesh sign 22 pacts

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, April 8: Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina began her four-day tour of India on an encouraging note as the two countries today signed 22 pacts in key sectors.

The high-profile visit is expected to boost bilateral ties between Indian and Bangladesh as the two nations signed a civilian nuclear cooperation pact as well as a defence agreement that includes a USD 4.5 billion line of credit to buy Indian military hardware.

Train services connecting West Bengal and Bangladesh and bus services connecting Kolkata and Dhaka were also launched during the visit. Earlier in the day, the Bangladesh Prime Minister was accorded a ceremonial reception at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan. Later, Hasina visited Rajghat to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi.

The current tour, however, seems to be West Bengal focused, as Bangladesh is heavily depending on resolution of the Teesta river water sharing agreement. West Bengal

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was present during the discussion and also the lunch that followed. The Chief Ministers of northeastern states were not invited to take part in the meeting though President Pranab Mukherjee invited them for the state dinner.

Meanwhile, admitting that the issue of illegal migration was discussed during the talks, Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar said that there was a lot more discussion on legal movement. "It is in our interest to make legal movement more accountable

(See page 10)

for the future," he said.

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Educationist Dr Amarijoti Choudhury addressing the 60th annual convention of the Assam Tribune Employees' Union on the Assam Tribune premises on Saturday. — AT photo (Report on page 5)

Sunday

- Coffee at Saigon Bhaswati K. Goswami
- Music of the maestros Dr Manash P. Goswami
- Shaping Spring Asha Kuthari Chaudhuri
- WOMEN PLUS: Notice how? Agnimitra Barbrash
- STYLE: It's spring blossoms Shantakri Chaudhury
- FICTION: Life on a deathbed - II Mumu Bora
- HEALTHWISE: Challenges of autism Mitali Sharma
- MY SPACE: Doctor, patient – where's the lacuna? Prof. Dr. Madhumita P. Das
- LIFE: Rolling through time Indranil Raimedhi
- Plus all our regular features



OPENING SHORTLY

In your City

China bid on my successor 'nonsense': Dalai Lama

TAWANG, April 8: The Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama today criticised China for making a bid to name his successor.

"Beijing's bid to name my successor to undermine the Tibetans' cause is nonsense," he said while talking to reporters here.

China had years ago confined the Dalai Lama-nominated Panchen Lama and projected its own Panchen Lama, a monk immediately below the rank of the Dalai Lama.

"As early as 1969, I had said the Tibetan people would decide if the institution of Dalai Lama should continue or not. If this institution is no longer relevant, it should stop," said the 82-year-old spiritual leader, who had fled Tibet way back in 1959 to take refuge in Tawang, said.

"Nobody knows who or where the next Dalai Lama will be born or come from. Some indication (about his reincarnation) might come at the time of my death, but now there is no such

indication," he said.

He, however, did not rule out the possibility of the next Dalai Lama being a woman.

"In the past, Chinese emperors did have involvement in the reincarnation of some Lamas but they were disciples of certain Tibetan lamas," he pointed out.

On whether his visit to Tawang, a place belonging to him, will affect Indo-China ties, he said, "We will have to wait and see. But it is normal for China to give political colour to my spiritual visits."

The Nobel laureate said, "I wish Chinese officials accompanied me during my visits to find out if I am doing anything against them." While for the Chinese for its 'atrocities against the Tibetans', the Dalai Lama wondered as to why the Chinese government continued to call him a separatist despite his adopting a middle path.

(See page 10)

Pak must shun terror for friendship: Modi

NEW DELHI, April 8: India's doors are always open for cooperation, but for that Pakistan is being selfish, Prime Minister Narendra said today.

Hitting out at Pakistan, Modi said it breeds, inspires and encourages terrorism and this 'thought' is a roadblock to peace within the region and the world.

He emphasised that 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' is not just restricted to India, but also to the neighbouring countries and development of India is incomplete without the progress of the region.

"We have extended hand of friendship towards every country (of the region) and have invited them to be a part of

our growth. Without being selfish, we have wished good for the entire region.

"We truly think that citizens of all nations of the region progress and prosper. Our doors are open for cooperation, but for this terrorism has to be shunned.

"There is one thought in South Asia which breeds, inspires and encourages terrorism. The thought whose priority is not humanity, but extremism and

(See page 10)

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2 more arrested in Silapathar case

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 8: The Assam Police arrested two more accused for their alleged involvement in the Silapathar incident where the office of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) was attacked.

The duo after being arrested was produced before a local court at Siliguri in West Bengal which allowed two days' transit remand. After being brought to the State, both the accused are expected to be produced before the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Dhemaji tomorrow.

Sources, however, maintained that if the accused cannot reach the destination (Dhe-

maji in Assam within the specified transit remand period (two days), they can be produced again at any territorial judicial magistrate in Assam for extension of transit remand.

A joint team of Assam and West Bengal Police last night arrested Gauhati High Court advocate Sabadey Das and his associate Beni Madhab Roy from an undisclosed location at Siliguri. The duo was arrested after the police team camping in the neighbouring State acted on specific inputs about their movement in the locality.

While Sabadey Das is the president of the State unit of the Nukhil Bharat Bangali Udbastu Sammanay Samity, Roy is the State general secretary.

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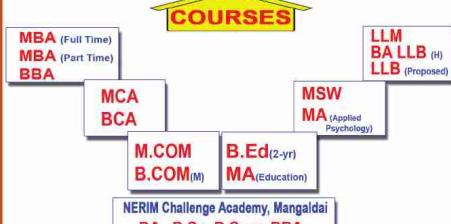


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CJI criticises unfulfilled poll promises

NEW DELHI, April 8: Chief Justice of India JS Khehar today criticised the electoral politics in the country, saying poll promises are 'routinely unfulfilled', caste issues project differently to get a majority and party manifestos do not have any linkage to socio-economic justice.

The CJI said that electoral politics in India centres around 'mobilisation and politicisation' of the social groups which were poor or disadvantaged and have long remained politically dominant.

Justice Khehar, who was speaking at a seminar on 'Electoral Issues and Economic Reforms', said, "Caste issues are projected in different ways to ensure a majority in each constituency."

He said that ever since these marginalised sections have begun turning up in larger numbers to vote, it has led to an unprecedented volatility in the electoral outcome.

This has forced political parties to seek new forms of political alignment, social engineering and support, he said.

Despite these changes in the electoral process, the

(See page 10)

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Samkalg IAS will start its operations in Guwahati from July/August 2017 and the attendees of the seminar will be considered for enrollment into the coaching programmes on merit basis.

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Assam Tribune Employees' Union annual meet

Trade unions fight for justice: Dr Choudhury

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 8: Trade unions are not just the bodies fighting for workers' rights, but they are organisations working against discrimination, which contributes to building an equal and just society for all."

Eminent educationist Dr Amarijyoti Choudhury stated this during his speech at the 60th Annual Conference of the Assam Tribune Employees' Union (ATEU) held on the Tribune Buildings premises here today.

"When such organisations raise their voices on other important issues as well, like global warming and maintaining ecological balance, it creates a wider impact among people," he observed in his speech as he was the chief guest of the event.

Dr Choudhury lauded the ATEU for its role in the trade union movement as well as other spheres of social life.

"Generations have grown up reading and admiring the objective and unbiased reporting of *The Assam Tribune*, *Dainik Assam* and *Asom Patrika*. The ATEU should be lauded for its role in creating and maintaining a work environment, where positive traits can flourish among the employees," he said, praising the Tribune Group for successfully organising the closing ceremony of the platinum jubilee celebration.

"Trade union movements are discouraged in the newspaper houses on various pretexts. But, stepping into its 60th year, we assure that the ATEU would grow from strength to strength and work not just for its members, but

also for the other deprived newspaper employees of the *Dainik Assam*.

He also enthralled the audience by reciting two poems by Asam Keshari Ambikaguri Raichoudhury and Hiren Bhattacharya.

Trade Union leader Khandan Chandra Das, the appointed speaker of the event, exhorted the younger generation to join the trade union movement so that the rights of workers do not fall prey to the changing globalisation scenario. He said that the State is facing a crisis with issues like including flood, erosion, illegal influx, big dams, unemployment, etc., acquiring alarming proportions.

Reiterating the ATEU's stand for raising its voice also for the employees of other newspaper organisations of the State, president Siba Prasad Deba said that while the Tribune Group has set an example nationwide by implementing the recommendations of the Majithia Wage Board, other newspapers of the Tribune Group recommended and protest against the price rise of essential items were read out by Hiranya Barman, Ghana Deka and Santanu Hazarika enthralled the audience with a song and a poem recitation respectively. A cultural programme followed the conference.

also for the other deprived newspaper employees of the *Dainik Assam*.

Earlier, the Union general secretary Dugdha Ram Kalita read out the general secretary's report.

"We demand of the State Government to arrange for government pension for media employees in the lines of the Kerala government scheme. Moreover steps should be taken to ensure protection of journalists," he stated, asking the members also to contribute to environmental protection.

Meanwhile, the members of the new executive committee of the ATEU for the year 2017-18 were introduced by chief election officer RD Goswami.

At the outset, reception committee convener Tankeswar Kakati explained the objectives of the meet while committee chairman Atulya Madhab Goswami delivered the welcome address.

Three proposals accepted in the subject committee, including a proposal against amendments in the Labour Acts, thrust on implementation of Majithia Wage Board recommendations and protest against the price rise of essential items were read out by Hiranya Barman, Ghana Deka and Santanu Hazarika enthralled the audience with a song and a poem recitation respectively. A cultural programme followed the conference.

WEATHER GUWAHATI
LOCAL FORECAST:
Cloudy with some sky to generate clouds. Sky Rain/thundershower is likely to occur. Maximum temperature is most likely to be 30°C on 10th April.
TEMPERATURE:
Max 33.0°C
Min 20.5°C

Ram Mahotsav

GUWAHATI, April 8: The VHP Guwahati, is organising Ram Navami at Ulubari HS School tomorrow. Ram Navami Kirtan will be presented and a procession will be taken out.

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Burglary at AIR station

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 8: In a pigment development, the brass conductors pipes of the All India Radio (AIR), Guwahati-A Station's transmission tower located in Jaiakhati Satmala area here, were stolen last night.

This resulted in disruption of the AIR Guwahati-A programme during the morning and day hours today.

According to AIR Guwahati authorities, the burglars entered the AIR Jaiakhati campus by scaling the boundary wall and then broke open the door of the room where the 100-kw Medium Wave Guwahati transmitter is located. The brass conductors pipes that stolen are worth around Rs 10,000, sources said.

An FIR has been lodged with the Jaiakhati Police Station in this connection, sources said.

Knowledgeable circles here said the incident might have been the first case of disruption of its programme transmission in the history of the AIR Guwahati.

However, the transmitter, which operates with the help of valves, is an outdated one. The radio transmitter equipment manufacturers are not producing the parts of this transmitter. This has made the transmitter an obsolete one and hence it needs to be replaced with a modern one.

Moreover, this transmitter

- Discussion on 'Dangers of terrorism and anarchism' under the auspices of the Centre for National and International Affairs, at Guwahati Press Club at 11 am.
- 32nd annual meeting of Baghorbari Asomi Mihila Samiti at Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra at 2 pm.
- 31st anniversary dance programme of Kalabhumini at Rabindra Bhawan at 5.30 pm.

has got its radial transmission area abnormally reduced because of its old equipment. It also does not have an FM mode support because of some administrative lapses. FM mode support has become a necessity nowadays for radio transmission.

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Result Date
MANET (MIT-NAT)
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5	Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	76.83	5	
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9	IIT Madras	Tamil Nadu	62.55	9	
10	IIT Hyderabad	Telangana	60.24	10	
11	Tatyasaheb Kore Institute of Technology (TKIT)	Tumkur	59.44	11	
12	National Institute of Technology (NIT) Warangal	Odisha	58.78	12	
13	Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT)	Tamil Nadu	58.16	13	
14	Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT)	Mumbai	57.97	14	
15	Indian Institute of Technology Indore	Madhya Pradesh	57.70	15	
16	Pitampura Public School & College (PPSC)	Delhi	55.43	16	
17	Indian Institute of Technology & Science (IITS)	Howrah	54.42	17	
18	Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai	Chhattisgarh	54.32	18	
19	Indian Institute of Technology Patna	Bihar	54.02	19	
20	Jemisi Mills Institute	New Delhi	53.70	20	

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MESSAGE FOR TODAY

Take care of your body. It's the only place you have to live.

- JIM ROHN

The Assam Tribune

Brinkmanship

Perhaps being privy to intelligence not known to the general public, American President Donald Trump appears to be convinced that the latest chemical attack on civilians in the Khan Sheikhoun area of Syria, in which reportedly around 100 people, including at least 20 children, died and hundreds were severely affected, had been perpetrated by Bashar al-Assad's army. The abhorrence at this barbarous assault has made the mercurial Trump perform a somersault on the Syrian issue. Though he had blamed his predecessor Barack Obama for inaction in Syria which enabled Assad and his backers to get the upper hand in the protracted civil war, yet he himself had desisted from intervention since it might alienate Russia, a country with which he had wanted to mend fences. There can be no doubt that Obama had desisted from involvement in Syria precisely for the same reason though the context was different, his cautious policy entailing that there be no hint of confrontation with the US's traditional foe and not the least possibility of escalation. Even in August 2013, when Syrian troops used deadly Sarin gas at Ghouta killing hundreds of civilians, he had taken the diplomatic path, having the UN pass a resolution to confiscate Assad's cache of chemical weapons, rather than a confrontational course.

But Trump has displayed no similar reticence, and has suddenly displayed a gung-ho attitude without calculating the consequences, a stance adopted by an earlier Republican President, George W. Bush, when he had launched an attack on Saddam Hussain, with the destabilizing consequences visible soon afterwards. In response to the chemical attack he had ordered a surgical strike upon the airbase and aircrafts which had ostensibly carried it out, hitting them with dozens of Tomahawk cruise missiles. Syria has cried foul, as have its other allies such as Iran. But, most important, Russia has denounced the missile assault as "aggression against a sovereign State" in violation of international norms, and vowed to take retaliatory measures. Not only has Russia scrapped the air alert agreement with the US which ensures that fighter aircrafts of both nations do not fire upon each other, she also moved a frigate carrying cruise missiles into the Mediterranean Sea from which the US fleet had launched its surgical strike. A Cold War scenario is being reenacted and there is no telling which way things will move. There is little doubt that brinkmanship on the part of the US President is designed to distract attention from domestic developments and boost his image as a leader. Unfortunately, by doing so he has injected confrontation as a component of US policy, bringing about possibilities of escalation. The world can only hope that international diplomacy can stem the situation from spinning out of control.

Good show

That five Assamese films and a Bengali film by an Assam-based director have won awards in the 64th National Film Awards is a welcome boost for the region's film industry. Film-making in Assam has been passing through a rough phase and recognition at national level is bound to be a big motivation for those engaged in the industry. Awards—aside the recognition it gives to the filmmakers, actors and others associated with the movie—also help a film to attract the desired attention from the public. But given the crunch the Assamese film industry is facing, more than awards what we need is an audience capable of enjoying and appreciating good films. At the same time, the filmmaker must also be able to come up with movies that can offer wholesome entertainment to the masses. While Assamese cinema found few takers in the past one decade or so, the silver lining happens to be the occasional commercial success of one or two films in-between. This shows that a well-made film with adequate thrust on artistic and technical aspects will never have to hunt for the audience. The biggest bottleneck before the industry has been dearth of cinema halls to exhibit its productions, with the gradual closing down of a majority of the halls in the State. Assamese film production dwindled to a trickle during the period notwithstanding the accolades won by the odd film. A bail-out package under which the Government can facilitate setting up of new halls and reopening of closed-down halls is a dire need. A pragmatic film policy is a must and that has to be formulated by taking into confidence the stakeholders in the industry.

While Assamese cinema is enduring all the predicaments crippling regional cinema in general, some peculiar problems have compounded matters. The reluctance on the part of the distributors and exhibitors to screen Assamese films even when those are drawing audience is a serious issue and this is something the government authorities need to take up. Changing tastes of the audience who have greater exposure to diverse satellite channels and myriad forms of entertainment has made many people, especially the new generation, technologically savvy and selective. Our filmmakers will have to keep this in mind while making films.

The Assam Tribune

From THE PAST

Assam Government's Industrial Policy To Be Reoriented

From Our Special Representative

SHILLONG, April 8: The State Industries Minister, Sri Biswadev Sarma said here today that the entire industrial policy of the Government would be reviewed and reoriented in view of the changed circumstances of the country.

Sri Sarma, who took over as the Industries Minister on April 6, said that he was only 'thinking aloud' and hence would not like to make any public declaration about the proposed changes before they were approved by the Cabinet. 'But I am confident if we have to make any progress in industrialisation, there has to be a change in the policy so far being followed.'

The Industries Minister thought that more stress should be laid on cottage industries which could use the raw materials of the State and there must be marketing facilities for such products, even if the quality was not very high. He was of the opinion that for such products Governments themselves would be promising customer.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 1967

Know when stroke strikes you

■ Chandana Choudhury Barua

We have become very health conscious now a days. It is a television programme, what app message or health magazine, we get information about healthy living, risk factors, dos and don'ts, but, there is no respite, people are victims of different diseases, sometimes it is life threatening or sometimes fatal, whereas, few become invalid for life. Recently few incidences of stroke started me, since the victims are my near and dear ones. You may be apparently healthy, never had a headache, very disciplined life unlike few others, still on a fine sunny morning you have suffered from stroke. I have seen from very close quarter, my late mother was a hypertensive patient; according to her, it is stroke which took her mother, barely 50, away from her life during her graduation examination, that was a rude shock to her life. Times changed, treatment, diagnosis improved. But continuous medication and monitoring also could not save my mother from stroke. This is a mystery for me as to why it is so rampant? How it can be prevented by early diagnosis, are few of my concerns. Although not a physician, being a pharmacist helps me to understand the disease well and to explain to common people, its severity.

Stroke occurs when the supply of blood to the brain is either interrupted or reduced. When this happens, the brain does not get enough oxygen or nutrients which causes brain cells to die. There are three main kinds of stroke; ischaemic, hemorrhagic and trans-ischaemic. Ischaemic stroke is caused by arteries in the brain either leaking or bursting open. The leaked blood puts pressure on brain cells and damages them. Blood vessels can burst or spill blood in the middle of the brain or near the surface

of the brain, sending blood into the space between the brain and the skull. The ruptures can be caused by conditions such as hypertension, trauma, blood-thinning medications and aneurysms (weaknesses in blood vessel walls).

Intracerebral hemorrhage is the most common type of hemorrhagic stroke and occurs when brain tissue is flooded with blood after an artery in the brain bursts. Subarachnoid haemorrhage is the second

Acting fast can help stroke patients get the treatment they desperately need. The stroke treatment that work best are available only if the stroke is recognized and diagnosed within 3 hours of the first symptoms.

type of hemorrhagic stroke and is less common. In this type of stroke, bleeding occurs in the subarachnoid space—the area between the brain and the thin tissues that cover it.

Transischemic attacks (TIA) are different from the aforementioned kinds of stroke because the flow of blood to the brain is only briefly interrupted. TIAs are similar to ischaemic strokes in that they are often caused by blood clots or debris. TIAs should be regarded as medical emergencies just like the other kinds of stroke, even if the blockage of the artery is temporary.

Transischemic attacks (TIA) are different from the aforementioned kinds of stroke because the flow of blood to the brain is only briefly interrupted. TIAs are similar to ischaemic strokes in that they are often caused by blood clots or debris. TIAs should be regarded as medical emergencies just like the other kinds of stroke, even if the blockage of the artery is temporary. They serve as warning signs for future strokes and indicate that there is a partially blocked artery or clot source in the heart.

According to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

(CDC), over a third of people who experience a TIA go on to have a major stroke within a year if they have not received any treatment. Between 10-15% will have a major stroke within 3 months of a TIA.

It is often observed that individuals with poor executive function—a set of thinking skills related to planning, problem-solving and reasoning—may be at greater risk of heart attack and stroke, according to a new study published in the journal *Neurology*. Workaholics may be jeopardizing their health after a new study reveals working 55 hours or more per week may lead to 33% greater risk of stroke. Alpha-blockers are used to treat a variety of conditions, including high blood pressure, Raynaud's disease and to improve urine flow in older

men with enlarged prostates. Now a new study suggests there is a higher risk of ischaemic stroke for men who take alpha-blockers but who are not already taking other blood pressure medications. Again, elderly people who sleep poorly and awaken frequently are more likely to have hardened blood vessels or oxygen-starved tissue in the brain, according to a report published in the journal *Stroke*.

Signs of stroke in men and women: (i) Sudden numbness or weakness in the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body; (ii)

Sudden confusion, trouble speaking, or difficulty understanding speech; (iii) Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; (iv) Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance, or lack of coordination. (v)

Sudden severe headache with no known cause.

Acting FAST can help stroke patients get the treatment they desperately need. The stroke treatments that work best are available only if the stroke is recognized and diagnosed within 3 hours of the first symptoms. Stroke patients may not be eligible for these if they don't arrive at the hospital in time.

If someone may be having a stroke, act FAST and do the following simple test: F-Face: Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop? A-Arms: Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward? S-Speech: Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Is the speech slurred or strange? T-Time: If you see any of these signs, call 9-1-1 right away.

Note the time when any symptoms first appear. This information helps health care providers determine the best treatment for each person. It is always better to call an ambulance so that medical personnel can begin life-saving treatment on the way to the emergency room. One should not drive and take along a driver.

Cardiovascular disease is the major cause of death in America, accounting for 34 per cent of deaths, many suddenly and almost all of them premature. This is down from 40 per cent just four decades ago, mainly due to treatment of common risk factors. If he/she has diabetes, the risk increases dramatically. The best prevention against heart disease and stroke is to understand the risks and treatment options. The greatest risk is ignorance or misinformation. The first step is to take responsibility for own health.

Brahmaputra dredging

■ Umesh C Tahbilbar

On April 4, 2017, in Guwahati, Union Minister of Road Transport, Highways and Shipping, Nitin Gadkari announced the decision of the India government to dredge a 841 km stretch of the Brahmaputra river from Sadiya in Assam to Chittagong port in Bangladesh. The share of cost to be borne by India is estimated to be Rs 250 crore. The dredging will create a 45 meter wide navigation channel that will be equipped with solar lights and GPS facilities. Gadkari stated that necessary formalities with the Bangladesh government have been completed. Gadkari also said that the first express highway of the north east will be developed along the banks of the Brahmaputra river. This 1300 km-long express highway where vehicles will move only at high speeds will be developed at a cost of Rs 40,000 crore.

On the closing day of the Narmati Brahmaputra festival, a tripartite agreement was signed for dredging and construction of the express highway between Assam Government, the National Highway Authority of India and the Inland Waterways of India. Earlier, last summer, Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal was reported to have said that the government would start de-silting Brahmaputra with the help of Dredging Corporation of India which is a government of India undertaking. Gadkari pointed out how the dredging of the Brahmaputra river will open up economic prospects for the entire north-eastern region of India with particular reference to tourism growth possibility conditional on various initiatives including development of infrastructure to take advantage of the waterway and the expressway. It is anticipated that once the project is completed Brahmaputra will have direct access to Chittagong port of Bangladesh and Haldia port of West Bengal and consequently boost up trade with the south east Asian nations. There will be a quantum leap in the opportunities for trade in Assam and the north

east using the waterway and the expressway. It has been stated that the 1300 km express highway along the banks of the Brahmaputra river will be built using the silt and sand from dredging.

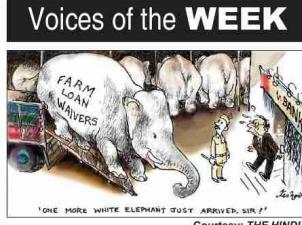
The aforementioned planned projects are indeed grandiose and unprecedented in the context of Assam. However, the pros and cons of pushing ahead with such projects must be considered carefully to preclude any possibility of the people of Assam being shortchanged in the process. The mega dams in Assam, especially the LASHET have shown how big projects originally touted as beneficial ended up controversial for lack of timely scrutiny. Nobody wants such a situation to arise again with respect to these latest projects. There are clearly certain aspects of the projects that require serious scrutiny.

Devastating floods in Assam have chronically affected its people leading to pain and suffering especially of the villagers. Even though various engineering methods have been tried to mitigate flood for decades, none has worked according to expectation. Because of abundant rainfall and the uplift of the Brahmaputra river bed due to earthquakes over time and siltation, the problem of flood in Assam has eluded resolution. Some people have viewed the latest dredging project to solve the flood problem of Assam. But nothing is further from the truth. Dredging in such a mighty river as Brahmaputra may be easier said than done. In fact, the Assam government undertook to dredge the Brahmaputra in 1975, but the exercise turned out to be futile. The essential purpose of the new dredging endeavour is to create a channel for navigation. But it is not clear if it is feasible even to maintain a clear navigable channel for nearly five hundred miles year long without prohibitive cost implication. The technical problem may even be insurmountable. The dredging company referred to earlier has been mainly involved in ports and estuaries. Their experience

in the context of a high discharge river needs to be examined. Brahmaputra's silt load is high and its process and fury during flood season is all too well-known. The Brahmaputra is about one mile wide near Guwahati. To expect to reduce the flood level even at this relatively small width with a 35 meter channel will be a pie in the sky. So flood control cannot be a component in this project.

It is not quite clear how the 35m wide dedicated navigation channel in the Brahmaputra will be managed with solar lights and GPS system to go with it. For ages, river Brahmaputra has served as a waterway for traditional small vessels. The new channel may trespass into the freedom of navigation of the small vessels which will mean artificial intervention of the waterway detrimental to the common mass. This is something to keep in mind so that it does not happen.

Clearly, the 1300 km express highway will create dislocations of people in many villages on either bank of the river and it is understood that the government of Assam is responsible for rehabilitation of the uprooted people. Dislocation of people is a serious matter and the government of Assam need to be fully aware of it. It is also said that the silt and sand will be utilized. The prowess of the Brahmaputra and its fury during the flood season cannot be underestimated and re-silting will be a certainty. Consequently dredging will have to be a perennial exercise and not just one time deal. Once the express highway is completed using the dredged up silt and sand, it is not clear how the dredged up material will be managed in subsequent years. The GOA should immediately form an expert committee of civil engineers to analysis such scenarios and assure the public that the decision is not shortsighted. All project reports, available now and in the future, should be examined by experts, before such a mammoth project is set in motion. Nothing should remain unanswered and vague and the people have a right to know what they are getting into.



Voices of the WEEK

"China has no business telling us what to do and what not to do. It is not our next door neighbour. India shares boundary with Tibet, not with China." — PEMA KHANDU, Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh

★★★

"When I got freedom, when I first entered India, I entered through the State of Arunachal Pradesh. I have an emotional connect with the State.... I am the longest guest of the Indian government, which has taken full care of me." — THE DALAI LAMA

★★★

"It will take five years of sustained efforts to improve the elementary schools to a satisfactory level." — HIMANTA BISWA SARMA, Education Minister, Assam

★★★

"Gutotsva is a great initiative to gauge the quality of learning. Teachers and students will greatly benefit from this." — NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister, India

★★★

"If necessary, I will support him (Arvind Kejriwal) for his livelihood because he is a clear force compared to Arun Jaitley." — RAM JETHMALANI, politician and lawyer

★★★

"Different communities and people of diverse religious groups took part in the festival (Namami Brahmaputra festival). This festival has given us the strength to make Assam a vibrant State." — SARBANANDA SONOWAL, Chief Minister, Assam

★★★

"I have not set any date and I will only return when I am 120 per cent fit.... I would like to return on field as soon as possible." — VIRAT KOHLI, cricketer

★★★

"There may be differences in principles which may lead to harsh arguments, but such differences should not lead to fights with one another." — SHURHOZELIE LIEZIETSU, Chief Minister, Nagaland

★★★

"India could be in the top 10 global markets for Audi within the next decade." — RAHULANSARI, head, Audi India

★★★

"Now China should understand that India has a clear approach towards Dalai Lama and Tibet." — LOBSANG SANGY, chief executive, Tibetan Government-in-exile

Civic sense

Inspired by the Rapacki Plan to have Central Europe declared a "nu-clear-free zone" and mindful of the fact that uncleared garbage could be as dangerous as atomic weapons, I and a few civic minded rate payers of Ward F, Bengaluru City Corporation resolved to have our ward declared a "garbage-free zone." This was way back in 1977 and despite the countless plenary sessions of the Residents' Welfare Association, the proposal, like its godfather and Rapacki Plan has made little headway. Garbage continues to pile up in Ward F. The fly-in-the-ointment is one Mr

Subramony of 8th Shop Lane, Ward F. He and his coterie are putting up impossible conditions to support the proposal. At the 11293rd session of the RAW, he stood up a point of order and said that garbage from his household consisted of rotting vegetables and leftover non-vegetarian food and that his wife usually threw them over the wall into their neighbour's backyard. This was the usual practice among the residents of 8th Shop Lane and he denounced the proposal to have our ward declared a garbage-free zone as a nefarious imperialist plot to deprive people of their fundamental right to file garbage into their neighbour's property.

The Chairman of the meeting therupon ruled Mr. Subramony out of order forcing him to sit and his clique to stage a noisy walkout shouting, "More elbow to garbage throwers!"

It was the turn of one Mr. Elangovan to take the floor. He wanted the word "garbage" to be precisely defined in terms of international law. He also wanted a reference to be

made to the International Court of Justice for its advisory opinion on whether dumping garbage on roads and pathways constituted a public nuisance.

With the Geneva disarmament talks deadlocked super powers are continuing to pile up nuclear weapons. With the proposal to have Ward F a garbage-free zone stalemated, its residents are piling up garbage, but there is a silver lining. Our ward can boast of the tallest uncleared garbage mound in the whole of Bengaluru and it can be viewed and smelled on any working day during office hours.

The last word

S RAGHUNATH

free zone as a nefarious imperialist plot to deprive people of their fundamental right to file garbage into their neighbour's property.

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WEATHER NORTHEAST

Forecast for North Eastern States: Moderate rain/thundershower is very likely to occur at many places over Arunachal Pradesh, light to moderate rain/thundershower is very likely to occur at a few places over Assam & Meghalaya and light rain/thundershower is very likely to occur at isolated places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura.

Warning: Thundershower with wind speed exceeding 50 km/h accompanied with heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on April 10. Heavy rainfall is likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on April 10. Heavy rainfall is likely to occur at isolated places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on April 10.

Forecast: Thunderstorm with wind speed exceeding 50 km/h accompanied with heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on April 10. Heavy rainfall is likely to occur at isolated places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on April 10.

Temperatures:

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	27	21
Titagarh	31.0	22.3
Silchar	33.7	22.2
Dhubri	32.5	21.9
Jorhat	29.7	22.5
N.Lakhipur	31.1	21.5
Sivasagar	27	14.5
Imphal	31.2	17.1
Itanagar	28.6	20.6
Aizawl	30.9	13.1
Agartala	34.8	25.7
Kohima	24.0	14.4
Pasighat	27.4	22.0
Cherrapunjee	23.5	16.7

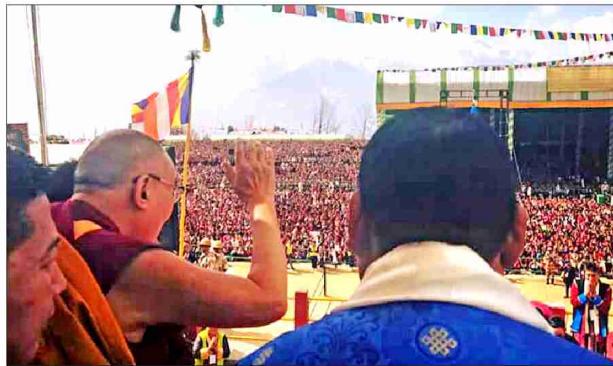
Campaign launched demanding Bharat Ratna for Dalai Lama

TAWANG, April 8: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has launched a campaign for awarding Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian honour to Nobel Laureate and Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama.

The campaign was launched on April 6, a day before Dalai Lama reached Tawang in West Kameng district yesterday in the face of protests by China.

"We have so far collected some 5,000 signatures. We will submit our plea to Prime Minister Narendra Modi after getting 25,000 signatures," district Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh leader Lhundup Chosang, who is spearheading the campaign said.

"Dalai Lama deserves the Bharat Ratna as he has said that he is a son of India and feels honoured to be the longest serving guest of this great country," Chosing said. An online campaign has also been going on, demanding the award for Dalai Lama. - PTI



His Holiness the Dalai Lama waving to devotees at Gyalewa Tsangyang Gyatso High Altitude Sports Complex in Tawang on Saturday. - UB Photos

Dalai Lama resents Trump's 'America First' policy

TAWANG (Arunachal Pradesh), April 8: Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama said he was opposed to the US President Donald Trump's "America First Policy", which he believed was unbecoming of a country that encouraged free thinking.

"I disagree with the America First policy. It is unbecoming of a country that encourages free thinking," he told re-

porters after a discourse at the Yid-Gchozin ground here attended by Buddhist Lamas and common people.

However, the Nobel laureate endorsed the European Union for pursuing policies directed at social cohesion and staying away from following the US stance of "anti-immigration and protectionism".

"The exit of Britain (from European Union) was the people's choice, but EU is something Africa, the America and even Asia can follow. I admire Germany for sticking to EU despite a very strong Deutsche Mark," the Dalai Lama said.

The 82-year-old spiritual leader also suggested that India, China and Pakistan could have similar economic and cultural cooperation for greater stability in the region. - PTI

Dalai Lama addresses devotees in Tawang

TAWANG (Arunachal Pradesh), April 8: Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama today addressed devotees speaking to them about the practices of Bodhisattvas at the Yid GaChosin monastery here.

A large number of devotees gathered at the monastery were from Bhutan, besides eminent Rimpoches, monks and nuns from near and far off places and guests. Welcoming the Dalai Lama to West Kameng district, Chief Minister Pema Khandu called him the world's "apostle of peace".

The Dalai Lama has always been an ambassador of non-violence and it is therefore right to say that he is to the

21st century what Gandhiji was to the 20th century.

"The world today requires the divine presence of Your Holiness more so in the present day when it is being torn apart by hatred and violence in many parts," Khandu said.

He said the emphasis on rational thinking and scientific analysis by the Dalai Lama has added a new dimension to the practice of Buddhism in modern times.

The rational approach, he said, would go a great way in ushering in a renewed era of peace, prosperity and spirituality.

Khandu said better infrastructure

would be built at Yid-GaChosin monas-

tery and it would be converted to a centre for Buddhist Learning.

He also said that it was the people's demand that a Kalachakra Initiation by the Dalai Lama is at Tawang in coming years.

Recounting the first sermon in exile delivered by the Dalai Lama at the Tawang monastery in 1959, he said the one this time will add to the understanding of Dharma and to follow the righteous way of living together with human values, love, peace and compassion.

Meanwhile, the Dalai Lama laid the foundation stone for a government degree college here. - PTI

Meghalaya butchers hold protest against cattle smuggling

RAJU DAS

On its part, the BSF is wondering out loud how cattle in large numbers are being transported to the borders through various check gates manned by State Government authorities. The BSF has also said that "cattle smugglers" are getting back seized cattle that are auctioned by authorities near the International borders with Bangladesh.

The Association took out a protest rally in the city from Motphora to Additional Secretariat yesterday and demanded from the State Government to do its bit to stop such smuggling from Meghalaya to Bangladesh. The Association said if the State Government shirks from its responsibilities, members from the Association would take up the customs.

"We would conduct checks of cattle coming into the State and ensure that these cattle don't land up at Indo-Bangla borders for smuggling. We are also ready to be arrested," vice president of the Association, G Waripha said.

The BSF official said that to stop the cattle smugglers getting their hands on the seized cattle, the BSF have suggested that these auctions must be held away from the International border.

Another member said that at least 30 shops selling beef have closed down in Jaintia Hills while herds of cattle in War-Jaintia are being smuggled into Bangladesh for a fortune. "The War-Jaintia area is full of cattle, but in different parts of the district there is an acute shortage of cattle. How is that possible?" he asked.

"The BSF and the State Government have held each other responsible for the spurt in cattle smuggling to Bangladesh. The Chief Minister recently said in the assembly that the State police have no role in checking cattle smuggling to Bangladesh and held the Central agencies (BSF) responsible for stopping such smuggling.

2 Nagas get Shaurya Chakras

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, April 8: Two Nagas officers — Kohima SDPO

Ani Zumu and Captain Elise Jami — were decorated with prestigious Shaurya Chakra at a grand function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Thursday.

The awards were conferred by President Pranab Mukherjee in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Zumu is posted as SDPO in Kohima while Captain Jami is from 12 Parachute Regiment.

Zumu is the first officer from Nagaland Police to be conferred with Shaurya Chakra after Nagaland achieved Statehood in 1963.

He displayed exemplary courage in apprehending three NDFB militants during a search and special operation on January 14, 2015. The militants were responsible for the massacre of 82 innocent people on Decem-

ber 23, 2014 in Guwahati. He also risked his life and apprehended two NSCN cadres, responsible for abduction of truck drivers from Manipur in 1999.

Captain Jami was honoured for his act of gallantry in carrying out special operation in the jungles adjoining Aghumato village in Zunheboto district in 2015.

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BJP pays tribute to Vinod Khanna's soul, apologises

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

we will hold two minutes silence to pay respect to the departed soul of Vinod Khanna."

Realising the blunder, Kharasati later sent press releases to the media stating that the hoax about the actor's death on social media has caused the mistake.

"Meghalaya BJP wishes to clarify that as per latest reports Vinod Khanna is responding well to treatment. We wish him speedy recovery and long, healthy life," Kharasati said.

Kharasati is the sitting BJP MP from Garakshapur, Pundom. He defeated the Congress' Pratap Singh Baijaya in 2014 to enter the Lok Sabha. The veteran actor was admitted to Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital, Mumbai on April 2 for severe dehydration. However, in recent days there have been several reports circulated in the social media about the actor's demise.

2 arrested, 27 gm heroin seized in Mizoram

AIZAWL, April 8: Two persons were arrested after 27 gram of heroin worth Rs 1 lakh was seized from their possession by Mizoram Excise and Narcotics department. The duo, both residents of Aizawl, were booked under relevant sections of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, officials said. The narcotic substance was allegedly being smuggled from Myanmar and an investigation has been initiated, they said. - PTI

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GVK Emergency Management and Research Institute, Assam invites applications for the following positions:

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OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER ASSAM AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY JORHAT - 785 013.			
Advertisement No. Compt-3/2017			
Applications are invited in the prescribed form from intending candidates for filling up the following vacant posts under Assam Agricultural University.			
Sl. No.	Name of the vacant post	No. of vacant posts	Scale of pay
1.	Junior Accountant	16 (sixteen)	Rs. 5,200/- to 20,200/- Grade Pay Rs.3,300/- (Pre-revised)

The detailed terms and conditions, qualifications etc. may be had from the University website www.assau.ac.in. The application form can be downloaded from the University website. The reservation of posts will be as per Govt. of Assam Rules. The last date of receipt of completed application forms in the office of the Comptroller, AAU, Jorhat-13 is 03.05.2017.

Sd/- Comptroller,
Assam Agric. University,
Jorhat-785 013.

GAUHATI UNIVERSITY NOTIFICATION FOR TENDER Dated: 07/04/17				
Sealed tenders in F-2 form are hereby invited from Firms/ Contractors of relevant categories registered under Gauhati University, P.W.D., C.P.W.D., M.E.S. and any other State or Central Govt. undertaking having adequate past experience in similar works for the following works:				
ITT No.	Name of Work	Value of work	Tender fees	Time of Completion
17/17-18/01 (Single Bid)	Construction of Amphitheatre in front of Arts and Law Building, G.U.	Rs. 21,23,655/-	Rs. 1000/-	3 months

Tender papers will be issued at the office of the undersigned from 17.04.2017 to 22.04.2017 during office hours and the last day of submission of tender is 2.00 p.m. on 28.04.2017 and the same will be opened on the same day at 2.30 p.m. Interested parties may contact office of the undersigned during office hours for the detailed tender notice and other terms & conditions or visit GU website www.gauhati.ac.in. Any corrigendum and addendum in respect to above works shall be published on GU website only. The bidders are requested to visit GU website regularly.

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Education is the gateway to success: Prof Goverdhan Mehta

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, April 8: Urging the new generation to get themselves involved in the nation building process through their talents, Professor Goverdhan Mehta, former Vice-Chancellor, Hyderabad University and a leading scientist in the area of Chemical Sciences and Organic Chemistry said here on Friday that education is the gateway to success and there should be a purpose behind everything.

Prof Mehta who was delivering his speech as chief guest of the 14th convocation of Tezpur University further advised the students to spend a productive life and said that India is a rainbow nation and in our diversity lies lot of potential. "However, in spite of having a lot of potential, we still have problems of poverty and huge illiteracy. India is re-emerging as a global power, as newer opportunities are arriving at our door-

steps," he said and with a word of caution he added that at this time, good is definitely not enough as we need to be better than the best. Citing the example of Malala Yousafzai, he also stated that indomitable spirit is required to overcome major obstacles. Appreciating the talent of the present-day students, he further said that students these days not only need to ask why but also to ask why not and advised them to explore the path of entrepreneurship. "Students need to be part of entrepreneurial programmes such as start-up India to seek employment," he stated.

Speaking on higher educational institutions, he expressed his disappointment by saying that 60 per cent of our graduates cannot be recruited and there is need for urgent revamping of our educational set-up. He talked about the autonomy of higher educational institutions and explained why it is important for intellectual thinking and progress and urged stu-

dents not to settle for ordinary jobs but advised them to pursue excellence. It is to be mentioned that the University conferred master's degree on 618 eligible student, bachelor's degree on 251 students and diplomas on 31 students. In addition, 56 students received PhD degrees while 28 students were honoured with gold medals, for topping their concerned subjects. The "T & I Best Post Graduate Award" and "Best Graduate Award" along with "Polymer Science Award" during the event. It is also mentioned here that the "T & I Best Post Graduate Award" and "Best Graduate Award", awards are given to students passing out of a Postgraduate and Graduate degree programme of the University for displaying exceptional academic and extracurricular distinction during a year. "Polymer Science Award" is given to a student for being topper in the concerned subject.

The other hand, congratulating all

the 92 graduates of Tezpur University receiving degrees and diplomas for various academic programmes, the Governor of Assam and the It is to be mentioned that the University today conferred 618 eligible students' Master's degree, 251 students' Bachelor's degree and 31 students' diplomas. In addition, 56 students' received PhD degree and 28 students' were honored with gold medals, for being topper in their concerned subjects. The "T & I Best Post Graduate Award" and "Best Graduate Award" along with "Polymer Science Award" during the event. It is also mentioned here that the "T & I Best Post Graduate Award" and "Best Graduate Award", awards are given to students passing out of a Postgraduate and Graduate degree programme of the University for displaying exceptional academic and extracurricular distinction during a year. "Polymer Science Award" is given to a student for being topper in the concerned subject.

On the other hand, congratulating all the 92 graduates of Tezpur University receiving degrees and diplomas for various academic programmes, governor of Assam and the Chancellor of the university, Banwarilal Purohit in his speech said that the university was established with the mandate that regional and national needs could be blended with the universal objective to generate knowledge and manpower. "I have reason to believe that the last two decades, not only paved the right way to achieve that but has also accomplished the mission substantially. It is indeed laudable that within a relatively shorter period of time, Tezpur University could secure a distinctive position among the top premier academic institutions of the country. In recent times, the university has attained position in the 131-140 rankings among the Times Higher Education Asia University ranking 2017. Last year, it was recognized with the Visitor's 'Best University' Award and was ranked 5th in the MHRD-NIRF India Ranking 2016. These narratives are inspiring not only for the members of the Tezpur University fraternity, but also for the larger public of the region as well as the nation who strive to realize the dreams of development on the Indian soil. I understand these glittering moments are outcome of the hard-work and dedication of the students, teachers, faculty members and staff of the university, and meticulous planning and execution at the policy-making level," he said.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Mihir Kantu Chowdhury congratulating the graduates said that the convocation or graduation ceremony of any higher education institution is one of most important and highly-celebrated ceremonies wherein the graduating students are declared qualified to enter into their professional domain and also for further higher studies and research.

Journalism must be positive: Dr Nani Gopal Mahanta

CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAI, April 8: "Journalism of news media must be positive, it can never be negative. Journalism is for bringing in social reforms, eradicate the prevailing superstitions and show the society the way to modernisation with a scientific approach. This is what the people who are the pioneers and founders of journalism in India including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, BR Ambedkar etc., showed us before independence, observed Dr Nani Gopal Mahanta, eminent political analyst, writer and professor of Gauhati University. He was delivering the memorial lecture on the celebration of the birth centenary of the first journalist of erstwhile Darrang district and a leading freedom fighter of the State, Late Paniram Das, organised by a local journalist body, "Mangaldai Media Circle" on the topic, "Positive journalism and its uplift" on Friday afternoon in the auditorium of Youth Club here.

Giving a detailed account of the different stages of journalists in India and Assam since the time of pre-independence till the present state of 'Jio' revolution, Dr Mahanta defined Mahatma Gandhi as the best ever journalist of the modern India with his diversity and wisdom. He said, "Mahatma Gandhi used to write 500

words per day for 55 years at a stretch which could be evident from the recent publication of a book of 100 volumes on his journalistic works consisting of 55,000 pages that took around 38 years for compilation. "Regarding the journey of media communication in Assam, he said that Mahapurush Sankaradeva was the pioneer of this journey. In pursuit of preaching his ideology among the people, he used 'Bhaona', 'Borgree', drama etc., as the powerful communication media.

Speaking on the present trend of journalism in India, he pointed out how the traditional print media has been influenced by the continuous growth of information technology and observed that in next ten / twenty years there will be no scope for news-based media and it will be replaced by discussions, articles, analysis etc. He even explained on the possibility of influencing TV journalism by digital media or the current 'Jio' revolution in the days to come. Earlier Madhab Rajbonghi, former MP and a senior lawyer recalled the life and works of Late Paniram Das who had started his 19 years journalistic career in the *Sadiya Asoniya* in 1938 as the first journalist of erstwhile Darrang district before actively joining the India freedom struggle movement. Rajbonghi highlighted on the different aspects of the contribution and sacrifices of

Late Paniram Das towards the society which included his foresightedness long before 60 years in preserving the rights of the Jati, Mati and Bhuti for its indigenous people. Jagadish Sarkar, EM, BTC while delivering his speech as one the invited guests promised to build an indoor stadium in the memory of Late Das in Kalaignan where he used to reside with his family. Ashok Kr Barman, Deputy Commissioner, Darrang, Guruyoti Das, MLA, Mangaldai and Sreethi Thiraviam, Superintendent of Police, Darrang also addressed the august gathering of more than 100 people including leading senior citizens, women activists, members of different public organisations and media persons among others. The function was compered by Mayukh Goswami, secretary of Mangaldai Media Circle earlier began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp before the portrait of Late Paniram Das followed by welcome address offered by Hitesh Hazarika, president of the scribe body.

The function which ended with the vote of thanks from a mediaperson Ganesh Dutta also featured felicitation to one veteran journalist of the undivided Darrang district and a renowned academician Dr Keshab Ch Dutta with traditional *gomo-si, seleng sador* and a letter of citation as a mark recognising to his untiring 33 years service towards print journalism.

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The customers hit by closure of AGVB Customer Service Point



With only a few days left for Rongali Bihu, Mising youths during a rehearsal at Gandhia Mising Gaon, at Marian on Friday. - UB Photos

Customers hit by closure of AGVB Customer Service Point

ANN Service

GORESWAR, April 8: Around 133177 poor customers of Joykoji mini-branch of Customer Service Point (CSP) sponsored by the Asom Gramin Vikash Bank, Muktaguri branch have been facing a lot of problems in their bank's financial transaction following the closure of the CSP since the last 45 days.

The customers of various panchayats of Bardangergorkochi Gram Panchayat, Jatyabhanga Gram Panchayat, Loich Gram Panchayat, under Bihidiya-Jajikona Development Block cannot conduct financial transactions in their own accounts in the said CSP, it is alleged.

It may be noted that on

Gargeswar Patowary who was in-charge of the CSP had resigned from his duty on February 22, 2017 and he handed over the HHT machine also to the concerned authority, the Senrya Technology Pvt Ltd.

One Ranjit Patowary was appointed instead of Gargeswar Patowary as the in-charge of the said CSP and the Asom Gramin Vikash Bank, Muktaguri branch had reportedly already recognised him as an appointed worker of the Joykoji CSP. Still, the Joykoji CSP has remained closed till date.

As a result, the entire consumers of the Joykoji CSP have to suffer a lot of problems in their transactions at the CSP. On the other hand, the beneficiaries

of PMAY-G of the Joykoji CSP observed World Health Day

GUWAHATI, April 8: The 128 Battalion CRPF observed World Health Day at its Battalion headquarter, 9th Mile here.

Wockhardt Ltd organised a free screening camp of diabetes at the Bn HQ. One hundred and fifty officers/ personnel were screened by Wockhardt Ltd. Surj

Kumar Atri, Commandant 128 Bn CRPF Arvind P Anand 21/C, Raju Kumar Singh 4/C, Smt. Yamini Kunwar Bhati 4/C, Dr Wasima Sultan M/O and chief guest Dr Nasimur Riaz

Dietologist/ Medical Superintendent of Hayat Hospital, SO's and other ranks took part in the programme, a release stated.

Dr Nasimur Riaz gave a power point presentation on the topic diabetes and its preventive measures.

"Depression—let's talk" was theme for the year which was also discussed in length. Commandant Surj Kumar Atri briefed the personnel regarding depression and measures to overcome the same. The tremendous efforts of Dr Nasimur Riaz and his team was applauded by the Commandant of 128 Battalion.

Shortage of doctors creating panic at Dergaon CHC

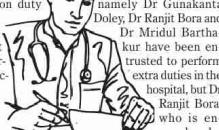
SANJOY KR HAZARIKA

DERGAON, April 8: Though the State Government is working for changes in functioning of its offices yet the ground reality remains different. Even the Health Department is not functioning properly.

The example of the 30-bed Dergaon Community Health Centre (CHC) is enough. The hospital was established way back in 1988 to help the flood-affected people of Brahmaputra areas to the north of Dergaon town. But the infrastructure of the hospital has remained the same since its inception. Only three posts of doctors including the Deputy Superintendent have been sanctioned so far. But the number of general patients is always increasing along in addition to the special emergency cases coming to the hospital as this is the only referral

hospital in the entire greater Dergaon area. As a result, the rift between the hospital authority and the guardians of patients only for not getting the doctors in time.

Recently an awkward situation arose over the death of a patient Borail Saikia. According to information, no doctor was on duty when the patient was taken to the hospital. Except Dr Mridul Barthakur have been entrusted to perform extra duties in the hospital, but Dr Ranjit Bora, who is engaged under



NHM on a contractual basis, is himself diabetic patient while Dr Mridul Barthakur is the in-charge of Dergaon SHC and hence their they cannot contribute their services efficiently. The Deputy Superintendent also

intendent have been filled up. The other two doctors again permanent posts are Dr Ranjit Bora and Dr Kalyan Bora. As there are three shifts, i.e., morning, evening and night it is not possible to run the hospital with only three doctors.

Relying to a question about the administration in the hospital, Dr Morang opined that he has failed to manage the doctors as the doctors are not willing to attend the evening shift.

He also revealed that though the higher authority has been informed of the matter from time to time, but in vain. On the other hand, several sophisticated apparatus have been supplied to the hospital in the godown from year to year as no specialist doctor is appointed to use them. The Greater Dergaon Consumer Awareness and Protection Forum (GDCAPF) demanded immediate sanctioning of more posts of doctor in the hospital and to appoint doctors against such posts.

The customers hit by closure of AGVB Customer Service Point

North Lakhimpur, April 8: The evaluation programme Gunotsav conducted by the Sarva Shiksha Abhyayan from Class II to Class VIII got underway in Lakhimpur district from Wednesday covering 2457 schools. In Lakhimpur district, Gunotsav-2017 is organised in schools in their respective constituencies on the first day. College teachers and officials

from various government departments participated in that educational assessment programme as evaluators. Ten IAS and IPS officials from the State Government are also taking part as external evaluators in the Gunotsav.

On the first day one teacher was found absent from his regular duty and thereafter suspended from his job immediately by the IS, Lakhimpur.

2457 schools being covered under Gunotsav in Lakhimpur

CORRESPONDENT



Activists of Asom Jatiyatobadi Yuva Chatra Parishad staging a demonstration demanding immediate repairing of the pipelines of Titabor water supply scheme, at Golaghat on Friday. - UB Photos

People hit by security drives show signs of post-traumatic disorder, says a study

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 8: Continued security and military operations can cause a larger collateral damage on livelihood and mental health of the affected people, found a fact-finding team of Tinsukia and Charaideo districts of Assam.

In the bordering areas of both districts, having a long history of clashes between militants and security forces, the population including elderly and juveniles displayed overt signs indicative of active Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in the internationally standardised screening assessment for mental health.

The study though conducted on a small sample size, was indicative of a high level of depression and anxiety among the majority of the sample screened.

A number of facts have been brought to light by the independent fact-finding mission that was carried out in the sensitive Pengeri and Kakapather areas of Tinsukia and the Baljan area of Charaideo district from March 31 to April 2.

"The school students have been major victims of such operations. The Baljan ME and Primary School that the team visited during the study is a major example of this," said Bonita Acharya of Women in Governance (WinG), Assam, who was a part of the team addressing the media here today.

The school she referred to has been used as a temporary Army camp from time to time, allegedly without the permission of the district administration. "Under an officer of Major rank, soldiers occupied the camp and carry out operations, investigation, etc., from the school. The school runs in such an atmosphere where the children have to witness everything," she added.

The study found that such schools were regularly occupied by security forces for extended periods creating fear and anxiety among teachers and students. "Many families who own agricultural lands have had to sell or mortgage them in order to pay court expenses and execute bail bonds and pay for medical treatment."

Kirity Roy, secretary of Banglar Manabaddhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM), also a part of the team, re-

ferred to a case of Miao police station, where two persons were killed in an alleged Army encounter.

"In two alleged encounters of Anupam Moran alias Naga Mann and Deep Chutia of Tinsukia in December 2016, the team found that nowhere the Assam Police, the State Government or the Assam Rifles adhered to the National Human Rights Commission norms prescribed in the cases of encounter deaths or deaths in police custody. The post-mortem reports raise several questions about the encounter," he added.

"The study also found that individuals who had experienced trauma recently during November 2016 to January this year exhibited acute stress disorder. The assessment of the victims and their family members was done during home visits by the team," said Dr Laifungbam Debrah Roy, a mental health expert and member of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims.

Other experts of the team included Sukla Dev Mitra, Rosmini Goswami, Simunomi Bora, Amrita Pritam Gogoi, Pooja Kotoky and Dipali Phukan.

CAPSULE**Galaxy C7 Pro**

NEW DELHI, April 8: Smartphone major Samsung on Friday launched in India its new 4G smartphone 'Galaxy C7 Pro' which will be available on Amazon from April 11, for Rs 27,990. "Galaxy C7 Pro is a smartphone which we feel suits best to millennials in India. It has full metal unibody design, 7mm thickness and comes with 16 MP as well as self camera," Samsung India Vice-President for Online Business Sandeep Singh Arora said. — PTI

Ola electric vehicles

NEW DELHI, April 8: SoftBank-backed Ola will soon launch a pilot to test electric vehicles on its platform in the country. Ola, which is locked in an intense battle in the Indian market with US-based Uber, is expected to roll out its pilot in cities like Nagpur in the coming months. Ola CEO and co-founder Bhavish Aggarwal on Friday said the company will pilot electric vehicles in Indian cities this year. — PTI

HDFC Bank

MUMBAI, April 8: One of the largest private sector lender HDFC Bank today launched its unified payment interface app on the fintech startup Chilli. "Our association with Chilli goes back to the start-up's early days. With this launch, we are taking it to the next level," its country head for digital banking Nitin Chugh said. — PTI

Flipkart

NEW DELHI, April 8: Locked in an intense battle with Amazon, homegrown e-commerce major Flipkart is looking at re-entering the grocery segment that accounts for a significant portion of India's retail industry. "Very soon all get into grocery... 80 per cent of units bought in India is grocery..." Flipkart CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy said at an event here. — PTI

Forevermark collection unveiled at Senco store

GUWAHATI, April 8: Senco Gold and Diamonds, a name synonymous with exclusive designs and intricate workmanship, has boosted its partnership with Forevermark diamonds—a diamond brand of the De Beers Group, by launching the brand at their store here, a press release said.

The function held on Friday was graced by Bollywood actress Radhika Apte, who unveiled an exclusive Senco collection crafted with Forevermark diamonds. Speaking on the occasion, she said, "Diamonds are every girl's best friend and when that friendship is strengthened with the promise of Forevermark, what more can a girl ask for?"

Highlighting the partnership, Sunvaran Sen, Executive Director, Senco Gold and Diamonds, said, "Forevermark has been associated for over two years now with our store in Kolkata. Launching the brand at our store in Guwahati was a natural extension for us."

Speaking on the occasion, Sachin Jain, President, Forevermark, said, "Senco Gold and Diamonds have been our trusted partners and we are proud to further strengthen our association with them with the launch at this store in Guwahati."



A delegation led by the UK Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Greg Clark, meeting the Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Anil Madhan Dave, in New Delhi on Friday. — UNI

Modi, Hasina flag off rail rake consignment

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina today flagged off a goodwill rail rake consignment carrying high-speed diesel (gas oil) from Numaligarh Refinery Limited's Siliguri Marketing Terminal to Parbatipur storage depot of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) in Bangladesh.

The goodwill rail rake consignment for supply of 2284 MT (2736 KL) HSD is an outcome of the discussion between the two governments, an NRL release said.

The present consignment is a

symbolic gesture of friendship and cooperation that exists between India and Bangladesh. During the successful visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Bangladesh in June 2015, both India and Bangladesh wel-

comed the Sale-Purchase Agreement signed between NREL and BPC for construction of a pipeline from Siliguri to Parbatipur for supply of HSD to Bangladesh.

"It was agreed to jointly work towards implementation of this 'Indo-Bangla Friendship Pipeline', a 123-km

NRL high-speed diesel

pipeline project (5 km in India and 130 km in Bangladesh) with a capacity to carry 1 MMTPA from Siliguri terminal to Parbatipur depot of BPC. The export of petroleum products from India to Bangladesh is also in

the works.

The products are subsequently transported to the rest of the country using river route. Once the NREL

expansion from present 3 MMTPA to 9 MMTPA is complete, India will be in a position to export petroleum products on a regular and long-term basis to Bangladesh. Prior to the construction of the pipeline, the rail rake mode of transportation of product from Siliguri to Parbatipur is also an effective mode of transport with minimum loss and pollution.

During the above flagging off event, senior officials from Railways and Customs Department, State and district administration and Numaligarh Refinery Ltd were present.

India's internet economy set to hit \$250 bn by 2020

NEW DELHI, April 8: Driven by e-commerce and financial services, India's internet economy is expected to double from \$125 billion to \$250 billion — growing from the current five per cent to 7.5 per cent of the country's GDP, a joint report by The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and the India Enterprise Forum (IEF) said on Friday.

With over 391 million users, India is already the second highest country in terms of mobile internet users.

According to the report titled 'The \$250 Billion Digital Valley: Dormant No More', the users are expected to grow rapidly to 650 million mobile internet users by 2020.

At the same time, data consumption by 2020 could potentially increase 10 to 14 times.

"Firstly, by 2020, 4G-enabled devices are expected to grow six times to 550 million devices, constituting 70 per cent devices in use. Secondly, reliable high speed data is becoming both ubiquitous as well as mass affordable," said Nisha Jain, a BCG partner and co-author of the report.

High-speed mobile internet adoption is set to reach 550 million users by 2020, almost 85 per cent of the total mobile internet users, the findings showed. Average data consumption is projected to reach 7.10 GB per user per month by 2020.

"Innovation is what leads to sustainability and sustainable entrepreneurship ecosystem will enable India to chart its own success story," added Geetika Dyal, Executive Director, TIE Delhi-NCR. — IANS

Energy cooperation

India, UK agree on priority areas for boosting ties

NEW DELHI, April 8: India and the UK will focus on innovation in smart technology to reduce power sector losses and clean energy finance for bolstering bilateral energy ties.

In the first India-UK Energy for Growth Dialogue here on Friday, Power and Renewable Energy Minister Piyush Goyal and UK's Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Greg Clark agreed on priority areas for further collaboration in the energy sector.

The agreed areas include innovation in smart technology to improve performance and reduce losses in India's power sector; financing for clean energy; decentralised energy scale-up and sustainability; and support to States in renewable energy planning and deployment, the Power Ministry said in a release.

The two countries will also focus on work to accelerate deployment of renewable energy and its integration with the grid; support for increased energy efficiency; and enhanced energy access for strengthening ties.

The dialogue takes forward the commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UK Prime Minister Theresa May for an enhanced energy partnership between the countries, the release said.

The two countries had signed an MoU on cooperation in the energy sector during the visit of Prime Minister Modi to the UK in November 2015.

On April 4, the two countries reaffirmed their commit-

ment to anchor investment up to 120 million pound each in a joint fund which aims to raise around 500 million pound, and has the potential to unlock much more in the future.

It was announced that the fund will focus its initial investments on India's rapidly growing energy and renewables market. India and the UK also recognised the importance of combating climate change and mobilising finance from a variety of sources, instruments and channels to mitigate its effects alongside generating economic opportunities.

They welcomed the work of the G20 Green Finance Study Group promoting green finance by encouraging the issuance of green bonds, among other forms of green finance.

Both Ministers appreciated the strides taken by Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), which has established operations in UK by investing around 7 million pound in seven energy saving projects after intense technical and financial diligence. The projects are in operation for more than two years and have been yielding dividends, it said.

The ministers also noted the interest expressed by the UK for replicating successful LED business model (UJALA—Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All) of India in the UK.

India and UK share a strong investment and financial partnership, wherein the UK is the third largest FDI investor in India and India is the third largest source of FDI projects in the UK. — PTI

Wholesale and Long-Term Finance banks

RBI presents discussion paper

MUMBAI, April 8: The Reserve Bank of India on Friday came out with a discussion paper for a new set of 'differentiated' banks to promote wholesale and long-term deposits, debt/equity capital raised from primary market issues or private placement, and term borrowings from banks and other financial institutions.

The Wholesale and Long-Term Finance (WLTF) banks, as proposed in the paper, will focus primarily on lending to infrastructure sector and small, medium and corporate businesses.

"They may also act as market-makers in securities, such as, corporate bonds, credit derivatives, warehouse receipts, and take-out financing," said the RBI paper, on which comments have been invited from stakeholders by May 19.

The paper explores the scope for setting up more differentiated banks, specifically WLTF banks. The RBI has already given in-principle approvals and licences to set up differentiated banks, such as, payments banks and small finance banks and several have started operations.

WLTF banks, the paper further said, will provide refinance to lending institutions and shall be present in capital markets through the form of aggregators. "They may have negligible

retail sector exposure on asset side. The primary sources of funds for these banks could be a combination of wholesale and long-term deposits, debt/equity capital raised from primary market issues or private placement, and term borrowings from banks and other financial institutions," it said.

The paper comes in the backdrop of NPAs impacting banks' balance sheets, declining trend in bank credit, primarily towards services sector, industrial segment, and small and medium enterprises.

This is also reflected in the decline in the share of the long-term assets (assets with maturity more than three years), relative to total assets, on the banks' balance sheets, the RBI said.

"This scenario, thus, presents an opportunity for specialised banks to take up long-term financing of the corporate and refinancing of the MSME sector lenders within the existing banking structure," said the paper, which also talks about the pros and cons of such entities.

These banks are expected to be very large institutions ab initio to take on large exposure to industrial, commercial and infrastructure sector. — PTI



The new Renault Kwid Climber model, which was launched recently, on display at Renault Sixmiles showroom, in Guwahati on Saturday. — AT photo

Industrialists urged to invest in mariculture

KOCHI, April 8: A meet of eminent scientists, policy-makers, research managers, academicians, industrialists, bankers and administrators today urged industrialists to invest money in mariculture to increase fish production in the country.

The meeting was organised by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute here to mark 37 years of mariculture research, education and development in the country.

Pointing out the present crisis in capture fisheries, JK Jena, Deputy Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, asked industrialists in the sector to come forward and concentrate on mariculture besides their entrepreneurial initiatives in shrimp farming.

"Since the Union Government is deliberate on eradicating poverty in In-

dia by 2030, it will promote and encourage all initiatives to increase the production in food and nutrition sectors", he said, adding that mariculture was one of the best alternative for ensuring the food security in the country.

The meet, which was organised by part of the ongoing year-long platinum jubilee celebrations of CMFRI, proposed to formulate industrial advisory bodies with the participation of scientists and industrialists to accelerate mariculture entrepreneurship in India.

Experts opined that consortium of experts from research, industry and banking was required to elevate the mariculture industry from a mediocre level to corporate level.

"We have to emulate the successful mariculture models implemented by South East Asian countries where mariculture has grown significantly catering to the food and economic security of those countries."

"The Chinese model of developing seafood-based products from plant-origin materials such as seaweeds and micro algae can complement our re-

quirements on growing demand for seafood", he said.

Apart from the traditional monotonous single species oriented culture systems, India should go for multiple species in mariculture, he added.

Gopalakrishnan also said CMFRI is in the process of preparing guidelines to formulate the National Mariculture Policy to enhance sea cage fish farming ventures in India.

PSBR James, former CMFRI Director, said CRZ rules should not be amended for the sake of tourism.

"The regulation is meant for the protection of the sea and coastal areas, not for promoting tourism", he added. Suresh Kumar, senior official from NABARD, explained the financial assistance being given by NABARD for promoting agricultural initiatives. — PTI

ITC, HUL, Cargill, Patanjali to fortify wheat flour: FSSAI

NEW DELHI, April 8: Food regulator FSSAI on Friday said major wheat flour brands like ITC, HUL, Cargill and Patanjali would begin to fortify wheat flour with iron, folic acid and vitamin B-12.

Fortification means deliberately increasing the content of essential micronutrients in food to improve its quality.

To address malnutrition, the FSSAI is promoting food fortification in a big way.

It had last year issued standards for fortification of salt with iodine and iron, of vegetable oil and milk with Vitamin A and D, wheat flour and rice with iron, folic acid, zinc, vitamin B12, vitamin A and some other micronutrients.

"Market leaders like the ITC, General Mills, Hindustan Unilever, Patanjali, and Cargill have agreed to start fortification of their flagship brands of wheat flour (*atta*) such as Aa-

shirwaad, Pillsbury, Annapurna, Patanjali and Nature Fresh respectively," the FSSAI said in a statement.

They have already initiated the process and their fortified wheat flour would begin to be seen in the market in different regions by July/August and then scale up pan-India by December 2017, the regulator said.

FSSAI said that the decision is the outcome of a series of meetings convened by it over past two months with related businesses, including medium and small industry players and development partners such as GAIN, who have been associated with fortification of wheat flour over the past few years.

FSSAI CEO Pawan Agarwal said: "Fortification standards and a logo for fortified foods released by FSSAI recently, has provided a rallying point for food businesses to take up fortification on a large scale." — PTI



Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inspecting a guard of honour during the ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Saturday. — UNI

When Modi, Hasina were asked to 'step down'

NEW DELHI, April 8:

"May I now request two prime ministers to step down? This is a request by the Chief Protocol Officer anchoring a ceremony on signing of MoUs after talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi had with his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina, leaving almost everyone at the event in splits."

What the officer meant was to request Modi and Hasina to come down from a raised platform and release a Hindi translation of the unfinished memoirs of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The event had taken place at the Hyderabad House where Modi and Hasina witnessed exchange of MoUs between the two sides and released the book besides launching a mobile service between Kolkata and Khulna in Bangladesh.

As his comments drew loud laughter, the protocol officer said, "I now request the two prime ministers who have not stepped down to jointly release the Hindi translation of the unfinished memoirs of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman." — PTI

National Conference hits out at Modi

SRINAGAR, April 8: The National Conference today hit out Prime Minister Narendra Modi for asking Kashmiri youths to choose between "tourism and terrorism," saying the remark was far from ground realities.

NC working president Omar Abdullah also said that linking tourism and terrorism was flawed at the outset as Kashmir received the highest number of tourists before the advent of militancy in the Valley in 1988. He also hit out at Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti for failing to bring a peaceful solution to the problem in the State.

"Whether the message was right or not, you can guess yourself. Militancy or terrorism did not erupt due to lack of tourism. The highest number of tourists visited the State a year before militancy erupted," Omar said after holding a meeting at Pulwama in South Kashmir, 35 km from here.

The former Chief Minister said if terrorism started in the State despite a tourism boom, it was obvious that there was no relation between the two. "This is a political issue and it was Mehbooba Mufti's duty to present the real picture before the Prime Minister. (But) She failed in her duty and that is what the PM said it," he added.

Questioning the rationale behind linking tourism and terrorism, he asked what should the youths do who hail from areas where there is no scope for tourism. "If you say that there here have to choose between tourism and terrorism, then tell me about those areas where there is not much scope for tourism. Are we directly pushing people in those areas towards terrorism? It is easy to indulge in such statements, but such statements have no relation with the ground realities," Omar said.

Pulwama, which is a part of Anantnag Parliamentary seat where by-polls will be held on April 12, is the worst-hit district where there is a heavy presence of militants and its sympathisers.

Asked about the ruling PDP's accusation that the NC rigged the Assembly elections of 1987 which gave rise to militancy in the State, Omar said the ruling party should talk about its achievements rather than talking about the past.

"Her (Mehbooba's) Government is two-and-a-half-years old now and the Modi Government is three years old. Let them show what they have done in these years, rather than going to 1987. There have been many elections since 1987. The people made their decision after 1987 many a time. Mehbooba should not hide her failures behind 1987. Let her talk of 2015, 2016 and 2017 when she failed to raise our issues in front of the Prime Minister (at a rally on April 2) at Udhampur," he alleged. — PTI

Unruly air passengers to face severe consequences: Sinha

NEW DELHI, April 8: The Civil Aviation Ministry today warned that unruly air passengers would face "severe consequences," including police action, a day after Air India lifted the flying ban on Shiv Sena MP Ravindra Gaikwad.

Gaikwad was barred by Air India and leading private carriers after he assaulted a staffer of the national airline at the Delhi Airport last month.

Following a direction from the Ministry, Air India lifted the ban yesterday and private airlines followed suit today.

In a series of tweets, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha said unruly behaviour by air passengers would result in severe consequences. This is the first official response from the Min-

istry after the airlines revoked the ban on Gaikwad — a development that had become a political hot potato after the Shiv Sena, an ally at the Centre, sought lifting of the ban.

"Air travellers should note that safety and security for passengers and crew are our paramount priority. Unruly and disruptive behaviour will result in severe consequences. This includes police action for a specific incident as well as being placed on a no-fly list," he said.

Sinha emphasised that the Ministry is strengthening rules so that a national no-fly list can be implemented and such incidents can be prevented. "About the incident involving the Shiv Sena member, the minister said Gaikwad had apologised

and provided an undertaking that such incidents would not recur.

"Therefore AI (Air India) has been advised to revoke his ban... Police investigations regarding Gaikwad's conduct during the March 23 incident are under way and the law will take its own course," Sinha said. Furthermore, in response to certain tweets related to the Gaikwad incident, Sinha said police FIRs have been filed and justice will surely be delivered. He noted that a case has been registered against Gaikwad under Sections 308 (culpable homicide) and 355 (assault).

"A flying ban is meant to prevent future unruly behaviour, not to punish past behaviour. We now have an undertaking for future behaviour," he added. — PTI

Stakes high for Cong, BJP in Karnataka by-polls today

BENGALURU, April 8: The ruling Congress and the BJP are playing for high stakes in tomorrow's by-elections at Nanjanagud and Gundlupet in Karnataka, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah investing much prestige into the contest.

The campaign for the constituencies by leaders of the BJP and the Congress saw personal attacks, allegations of misuse of government machinery, luring of voters with money and gifts and seizure of large amounts of cash and liquor.

While the BJP feels that the results will be in its favour post the success in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, the Congress is banking on the sympathy factor and its schemes for the poor and marginalised classes.

Elections are being held for Gundlupet and Nanjanagud constituencies following the death of Cooperative Minister Mahadeva Prasad and resignation of V Srinivas Prasad as the Congress MLA after he was dropped from the Ministry, respectively.

While Prasad is now the BJP candidate from Nanjanagud, the Congress has fielded Kalale Keshavamurthy, who had contested the 2013 Assembly polls on a JD(S) ticket.

In Gundlupet, the Congress has fielded Mahadeva Prasad's wife, Geeta Mahadeva Prasad, and the BJP candidate is CS Niranjan Kumar.

Former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda's JD(S) has decided not to field its candidates for the by-polls and remain neutral.

The stakes are particularly high for Siddaramaiah as he aims to continue his grip over the party and the Government ahead of next year's Assembly elections, even as he faces dissidence from the party's old guard.

With both the constituencies being Congress seats and on his home turf, winning the by-election has become a prestige issue for Siddaramaiah, who devoted his candidates for the by-polls and remained neutral.

crossing both the constituencies.

For State BJP chief Vedyaruppa, too, the results are important to play a dominant role in ticket distribution for the next year's Assembly elections.

The Lingayat strongman, who had camped in the two constituencies for the last 26 days, is also facing dissonance within the party over his "unilateral" style of functioning.

A total of 12 candidates are in the fray in Nanjanagud constituency, which has 2,01,815 voters. In Gundlupet, nine candidates are in the fray, where there are a total of 2,00,860 voters. The Election Commission has made elaborate security arrangements in both constituencies for the conduct of free and fair elections.

Along with police and Home Guard personnel, Karnataka State Reserve Police, District Armed Reserve and Central Armed Police Force units or platoons have also been deployed for the by-polls, the officials said. — PTI

BSP supports Cong in MP by-poll

BHIND (MP), April 8: In order to "take revenge" for the drubbing it received at the hands of the BJP in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, the BSP has extended support to the Congress for the crucial by-poll to Ater Assembly seat to be held tomorrow.

"The BSP has extended support to the Congress ahead of the by-poll," Congress general secretary in-charge of Madhya Pradesh Mohan Prakash told reporters.

Confirming the development, BSP district chief Gurbir Singh said, "We have extended support to the Congress for the Ater by-poll to wrest it from the Congress to continue with the party's winning streak."

Kare is close to Scindia and in order to cash in on the sympathy votes, the Congress has fielded his son, Hemant Katre, from Ater to retain the seat.

However, the BJP in order to prove that it has become a supreme political force in the State, is leaving no stone unturned to ensure that it wrests Ater from

the Congress, just like it had snatched the Kukshi seat from earlier Leader of Opposition late

Jamma Devi in 2011, even as the Congress had won the Kukshi seat again in 2013.

Scindia addressed nearly 23 meetings in Ater constituency. During the rallies, he had alleged that the State Government was neck deep involved in corruption whose glaring examples are Vyapam, Simbasta and midday meals scams, among others.

Chouhan also addressed nearly 20 poll meetings in Ater in support of the party candidate Arvind Singh Bhardwaj, who won the poll from this seat in 2008. He made an appeal to the electorate to vote for the party in the name of the BJP's popular slogan, "Sabka Satyam,

Sabka Vikas."

Apart from Ater, by-election for the Bandhavgarh Assembly segment in Umria district will also be held tomorrow. It was necessitated as the seat was left vacant after MLA Gyan Singh was elected to the Lok Sabha in November last year.

The main contest in Bandhavgarh (ST) seat is between Shivnarayan Singh of the BJP and Savitri Singh of the Congress.

The counting of votes will take place on April 13.

Meanwhile, State Joint Chief Electoral Officer SS Bansal said, "For the first time in Madhya Pradesh, polling in both Bandhavgarh and Ater constituencies will be held with the help of VVPAT-enabled EVM machines." — PTI



Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi meeting Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, in Lucknow on Saturday. — UNI

Curfew remains in force in violence-hit Bhadrak town

BHADRAK (Odisha), April 8: Curfew remained in force in the town while prohibitory orders were imposed in nearby Dhammagar and Basudevpur this morning after the town witnessed violence over alleged abusive remarks on the social media against Hindu deities.

While an additional force was also deployed in Bhadrak where curfew will remain in force till tomorrow morning, prohibitory orders were imposed in Dhammagar and Basudevpur this morning as a precautionary measure to prevent spread of violence, a police official said.

Senior officials, including Home Secretary Asit Tripathy and Director General of Police KB Singh, have been camping in Bhadrak to monitor and supervise operations to restore peace and normalcy in the town. — PTI

Mehta disappointed at failure to win national award for Aligarh

that the jury has done its best within their understanding and framework," Mehta tweeted today.

Aligarh was not considered worthy in that framework by the appointed juries just like *Lunchbox* was ignored in the year that *Shahid* won two National Awards. "I did not complain then and I am not complaining now either. I have got to respect the decision and move on."

Mehta's film *Aligarh*, based on the life of an AMU professor who was sacked on charges of homosexuality, received a lot of appreciation. The 48-year-old director said what hurt him the most was National Film Awards chairperson Priyadarshan's comment that most Bollywood movies this year were themed around homosexuality and did not highlight social problems, unlike some regional movies.

"This statement is disturbing and insensitive. It makes you wonder and worry about LGBTQ rights and their absence in the current mindsets as social problems," Mehta pointed out.

"Priyadarshan sir Aligarh did not meet the standards set by you and your jury. I accept that but your views on homosexuality not figuring as a fantastic social issue rankles," he added. — PTI



A still from *Aligarh*

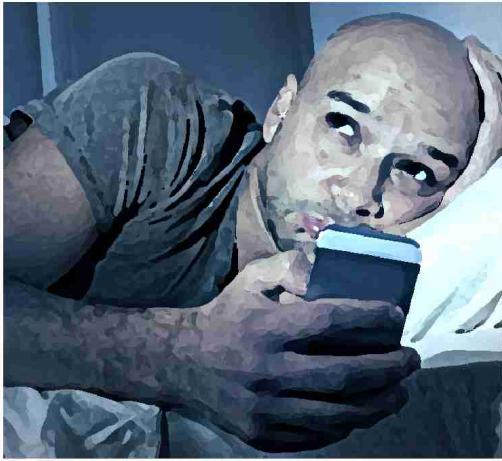
MUMBAI, April 8: Filmmaker Hansal Mehta says he is disappointed after *Aligarh* did not win at the National Awards, but his feeling was personal and not directed at any particular person.

After the announcement yesterday, Mehta had taken to Twitter to express his disappointment over his film's snub, which invited criticism from some sections, who felt that the director should not have posted it online.

However, Mehta, whose film *Shahid* won the National Award for Best Director in 2014, has clarified that he was not complaining. "When I expressed disappointment about the National Awards, it was personal and not directed at anybody. I would like to believe



LJP activists raising slogans during a protest against a multi-crore-rupee land scam, in Patna on Saturday. — UNI



Eyes wide open!

A gene called CRY1 may explain why you are a night owl, say researchers

Are you a night owl and have trouble getting up in the morning? It may be because your internal clock is genetically programmed to run slowly, researchers have found.

The findings showed that a mutation in a gene called CRY1 alters the human circadian clock, which dictates rhythmic behaviour such as sleep-wake cycles.

People who are carriers of the gene variant experienced eight-night sleep delays of 2-2.5 hours compared to non-carriers, the researchers reported in the journal *Cell*.

"Carriers of the mutation have longer days than the planet gives them, so they are essentially playing catch-up for their entire lives," said lead author Alina Patke, from the Rockefeller University in New York City, US.

Night owls are often diagnosed at sleep clinics with delayed sleep phase disorder (DSPD) – where a person's circadian rhythm

is delayed from the typical day/night cycle. Mutation in CRY1 led to the development of DSPD, which affects up to 10 per cent of the population, according to clinical studies.

People with DSPD often struggle to fall asleep at night, and sometimes sleep comes so late that it fractures into a series of long naps.

People with DSPD also have trouble conforming to societal expectations and morning work schedules, which leads to anxiety, depression, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes.

The gene mutation was discovered while studying the skin cells of people with DSPD.

The circadian clock responds to external environmental cues, so it is possible for people to manage the effects of the mutation on sleep.

"An external cycle and good sleep hygiene can help a slow-running clock to accommodate a 24-hour day," Patke said. – IANS



Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, April 3, 2017:

This year you need to focus on clarity and understanding. It's not that your language skills are becoming weaker; it's that Mercury, the planet of communication, goes retrograde and creates some problems when you're relating to others. Do not sign any papers unless you are sure of yourself. If you are single, dating could be frustrating. Take your time getting to know someone. If you are attached, the two of you often find yourself in silly arguments because of a verbal misunderstanding. Try not to personalize any comments. LIBRA finally clears up a problem.

The Stars Show the King of Day! You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

**** Others assume a more dominant role than usual. In a sense, being somewhat passive works well for you. You like seeing others become more assertive. Communication might feel strained between you and someone at a distance. Tonight: Go where you can be entertained.

TURKISH (April 20-May 18)

**** You have a lot to give you. Nevertheless, because of a lack of planning, you might not accomplish everything you had set out to do. Try to certainly can try, though. Allow greater give-and-take between you and a mate. Tonight: Know when to call it a night.

GERMAN (May 19-June 21)

**** You might not want to get into details with others. You are entering a period when Mercury, your ruling planet, seems to be moving backward. Communication places and times. Don't get into needless arguments, and avoid signing any legal papers. Tonight: Be charming.

CANDIAN (June 22-July 22)

**** You have a bull's-eye on your plans, but perhaps you are short on energy right now. Good feelings surround you; however, be careful with others' feelings. Be discriminating about what you share and with whom. Do what you need to do in order to get communication flowing.

LEMON (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** Communication flourishes, but confusion seems to surround a major decision. You will want to have a conversation about a child or loved one. This person might be very distant or depressed at the moment. Get to the point. Tonight: Catch up on news.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

**** You are able to make a difference. You could be fired and withdrawn as a result of dealing with an unusually needy person. You might want to escape in order to forget about all of your issues. No such luck, though, as your ruling planet, Mercury, goes retrograde. Tonight: Relax.

ARABIAN (Sept. 23-Oct. 21)

**** You are unusually magnetic, and others seem to be seeing you out right now. You'll have your hands full with so many people wanting some time with you. Choose your words with care, as misunderstandings happen quickly at the moment. Tonight: Do your thing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 22-Nov. 21)

**** You might not be ready to share everything that is on your mind. Some people will push you to try to get you to talk; others will just let you be. A friend is even likely to push you to see things his or her way. Tonight: Be careful when discussing meeting times and places.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** You are not ready to share everything as a result, others will observe what you are doing. Try not to hold a grudge against a loved one. Accept the fact that you might have an unusual amount of work to complete. Get a head start on tomorrow's work. Tonight: Make it an early night.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** You have strong feelings. Your softer side emerges during the day because of the company of a dear friend. Someone you often socialize with could feel left out. Reach out to this person and include him or her in your plans. Tonight: Enjoy what others have to offer.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** Someone could treat his friendliness and warmth grade that you want more from him or her than what you have expressed. Clear up any misunderstandings quickly. Tonight: Enjoy the people who surround you.

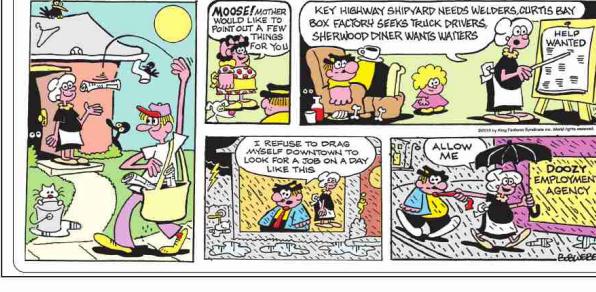
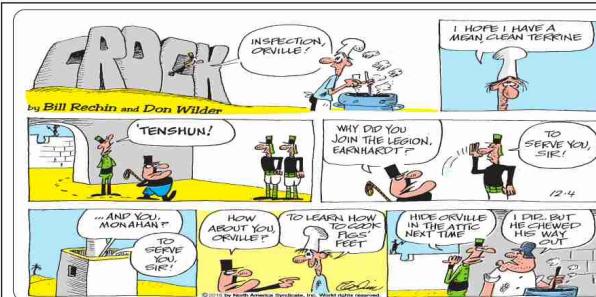
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

**** Deal with a partner or loved one directly. This person could be overly sensitive and might become defensive in a conversation. You are in the process of investigating what is going on with a friend. Ask more questions; if need be, Tonight: Head to a favorite place.

Thought for the day

One machine can do the work of fifty ordinary men. No machine can do the work of one extraordinary man.

— ELBERT HUBBARD



Across

1 Foolish or moronic person (5)

4 Derived, progressed, came about (7)

8 Pig or wild boar (3)

12 Bird (3)

14 Army uniform colour (5)

16 Grade or level (7)

17 By mouth (4)

20 Former Arab capital (4)

23 All over again (4)

24 South Indian state (6)

26 Showing unkindness (6)

27 Scientific reality (8)

28 If out of this, is not functioning properly (6)

31 Afternoon for the (9)

32 Manner or bearing (4)

34 Yes — : please give the answer (2,2)

35 Jeered or mocked (7)

36 Use energy (5)

38 Puts on one's clothes (7)

41 Smell (5)

42 Give instruction (5)

43 Primate (3)

44 Wapiti or moose (3)

45 More silly or insane (7)

46 Long walls or embankments against flooding (5)

47 South Indian state (6)

48 Annoyed or irritated (6)

49 Capital of Arunachal Pradesh (8)

50 Having three feet (8)

Down

1 Headword (6)

2 Headword (6)

3 Portable shelters (5)

39 Needle case (4)

40 Battle or box with (4)

4 Returned sound (4)

5 Hideous giant (4)

6 Ship or container (6)

7 Liquid measure used in apothecary etc. (6)

8 Walking haltingly (8)

9 Makes no progress, should we say? (4,7)

10 Guilty person (9)

11 Nameless, incognito (9)

12 Ali — : Extremely thin (4,3,4)

21 Pythias's bosom pal (5)

22 Attend to the fire (5)

23 Indigo dye (4)

25 time : never? (2,2)

27 Caught up with (8)

29 Swallowed (8)

30 It shows the highest and lowest point of one's achievements? (8)

31 Idolised: cherished (6)

34 Most peculiar or ordinary (6)

37 Portable shelters (5)

39 Needle case (4)

40 Battle or box with (4)

41 Returned sound (4)

42 Headword (6)

43 Headword (6)

44 Headword (6)

45 Headword (6)

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4 dead in Sweden truck attack, man arrested

STOCKHOLM, April 7: Four people were killed and 15 injured when a stolen truck ploughed into a crowd of people outside a busy department store in central Stockholm today, police said, adding that one man had been arrested in connection with the attack.

It was the latest in a string of similar assaults with vehicles in Europe, including in London, Berlin and the southern French city of Nice. Children were among the injured, Stockholm's regional health care authorities said in a statement.

"Sweden has been attacked. Everything points to a terror attack," said Prime Minister Stefan Lofven, who cut short a visit in southwestern Sweden to return to Stockholm after what, if confirmed, would be the country's first deadly terror attack.

Police had earlier released a grainy picture of a suspect they did not have in custody.

Police spokesman Lars Byström refused to say whether the man who was later arrested was the man in the picture, and would not confirm media reports that he had confessed to the attack.

Police had earlier said two people had been taken in for questioning.

Pictures taken at the scene showed a large blue truck with a mangled undercarriage smashed into the Ahlens department store.

A spokeswoman for beer company Spendrups told AFP that the truck "had been stolen during a delivery to a restaurant."

Witnesses described scenes of terror and panic.

One witness identified only as Dimitris told the *Aftonbladet* daily that the truck came "out of nowhere."

"I couldn't see if anyone was driving but it was out of control. I saw at least two people get run down. I ran as fast as I could away from there," he said.

Another shopper, 66-year-old Leander Nording, was at Ahlens when he suddenly heard a loud bang. -AFP



Salah Shaff, 25, reacts over the body of his daughter Amira Shaff, 1.5 years old, after an airstrike on the rebel-held besieged city of Douma, in the eastern Damascus suburb of Ghouta, Syria on Friday. - UNI

Malala to become youngest-ever UN Messenger of Peace



UNITED NATIONS, April 8: Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai is set to become the UN's youngest-ever Messenger of Peace after she was selected by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for the highest honour bestowed by the world body on a global citizen.

The designation ceremony will be held next week at the UN's headquarters here.

"Even in the face of grave danger, Malala has shown an unwavering commitment to the rights of women, girls and all people," the Secretary-General said on his selection of Yousafzai for the designation.

"Her courageous activism for girls' education has already energised so many people around the world," he said, add-

ing that as the United Nations' youngest-ever Messenger of Peace, she can do even more to help create a more just and peaceful world. Yousafzai, 19, became a global symbol of the fight for girls' education after being shot in the head in October 2012 for opposing Taliban restrictions on female education.

The Pakistani education activist survived the attack and became an advocate for millions of girls denied formal education around the world.

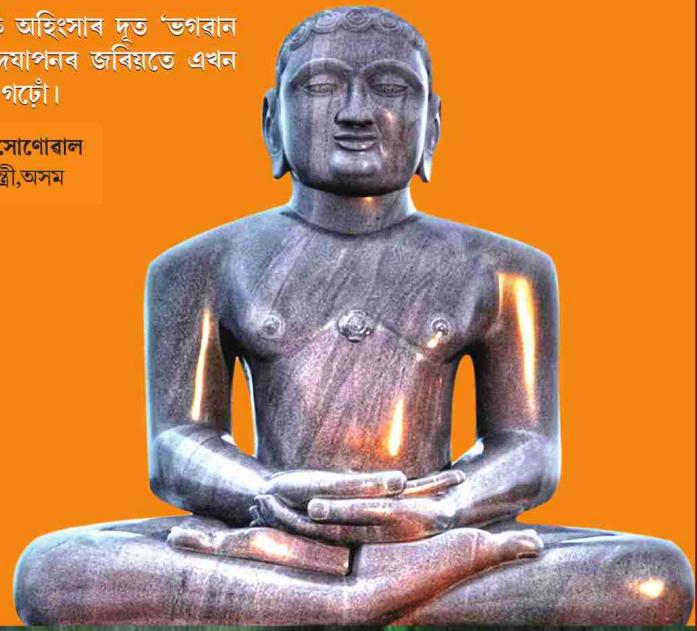
In 2013, Yousafzai and her father Ziauddin Yousafzai co-founded the Malala Fund to bring awareness to the social and economic impact of girls' education, and to empower girls to demand change. -PTI

মহাবীর জয়ন্তী

‘ভগবান মহাবীর’-র আজি পৰিত্ব জন্ম জয়ন্তী
উপলক্ষে জৈন ধর্মালম্বী লোকসকলৰ লগতে সমগ্ৰ
অসমবাসীলৈ মোৰ আন্তৰিক শুভেচ্ছা আৰু ওলগ
যাচিছে।

আহক, শান্তি আৰু অহিংসাৰ দৃত ‘ভগবান
মহাবীর’-ৰ জন্ম জয়ন্তী উদযাপনৰ জৰিয়তে এখন
সুন্দৰ শান্তিৰ মানৱ সমাজ গঢ়েঁ।

সৰ্বনন্দ সোণোৱাল
মুখ্য মন্ত্রী, অসম



অসম চৰকাৰ

US, Russia clash in Security Council over Syria missile strike

Moscow, US on the verge of a military clash: Russian PM

MOSCOW, April 8: Condemning the US missile strike in Syria, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev on Friday said the action puts Moscow and Washington "on the verge of a military clash."

"This military action is a clear indication of the US President's extreme dependency on the opinion of the Washington establishment, the one that the new president strongly criticized in his inauguration speech," Medvedev wrote on Facebook.

Medvedev said the missile strike was "really sad for our now completely ruined relations" with the US and "good news for terrorists."

"The Trump administration proved it will fiercely fight the legitimate Syrian government, in a tough contradiction with international law and without UN approval, in violation of its own procedures stipulating that the Congress must first be notified of any military operation unrelated to aggression against the US."

President Trump authorised a missile launch into Syria late on Thursday in response to a chemical attack earlier this week that US and other Western officials believe was conducted by forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

According to the Pentagon, 59 *Tomahawk* cruise missiles were launched during the strike, which targeted the Shayrat Air Base, the reported origin of a chemical attack. - IANS

Twenty killed in Myanmar wedding boat crash

YANGON (Myanmar), April 8: At least 20 people were killed when a boat carrying scores of wedding guests collided with a river barge in Western Myanmar, authorities said today, with more feared drowned as rescuers searched for the missing.

The boat, called "Silver Star" in Burmese, sank Friday evening in a river near Pathein, a port city west of commercial capital Yangon.

It was believed to be carrying around 60 passengers on their way home from a wedding ceremony, according to a local police officer.

Of the dead, officials said 16

were women and four were men.

"They were crossing to the other side of the river after attending a wedding in Pathein. Most of them were relatives from the same village," said the policeman, who requested anonymity. Both ships were unlit when they collided in the middle of the river, he added.

"We estimate nine people are still missing," regional MP Aung Thu Htwe told AFP, adding that some 30 people had been rescued alive the night before. Local media photos showed frenzied scenes as rescuers worked in the dark yesterday night to wheel stretch-

ers away from the river and lay bodies onshore.

Authorities resumed the search operation today morning, the police officer said, though no bodies had been found by midday.

"We will do search and rescue for the whole day," he told AFP.

Fatal boat accidents are common in Myanmar, a poor country with rudimentary transport and weakly-enforced safety regulations.

Vessels ferrying people along the country's coastline and rivers are often dangerously overcrowded, and accidents can have staggering death tolls. - AFP

Women ID hockey final today

CORRESPONDENT

MORIGAON, April 8: The semifinal line-up has been drawn in the Inter District Senior Women Hockey Tournament.

In four quarterfinals played at the Khirod Boruah Stadium here today, Nagaon edged past Digboi 1-0, host Morigaon trounced Silchar 7-0, Naharkatia pipped Kokrajhar 1-0 and Makum beat Bongaigaon 5-0.

In the semifinals tomorrow morning Nagaon will square off against Morigaon while in the other match Makum will lock horns with Naharkatia.

The final is slated for tomorrow afternoon.

Lakhimpur outplay GTC CA

SPORTS REPORTER



Former Ranji player Gautam Hazarika giving away the MDM trophy to Sourav Roy.

all round show. He took three wickets and scored 15 runs.

Brief scores: Lakhimpur CA 158 (Ruhinandan Poga 44, Parjanya Hazarika not out 35, Sourav Roy 18, Rahul Boro 3/21, Dhruv Raj Baroh 2/25, Shriaj Choudhury 2/28), GTC CA 89 (Sandil Ali 39, Sourav Roy 3, Rebot Gohain 3/16, Nilupai Gogoi 2/25).

Today's match: Dibrugarh vs Lakhimpur.

ATT A release annual calendar

GUWAHATI, April 8: The Assam Table Tennis Association (ATT A) has announced its annual calendar for the year 2017 during which the State TT body will host nine major ranking tournaments along with the inter district and State championship, informed ATT A secretary Tridib Duaryar in a release.

The schedule: (Major ranking) at Nagaon from April 27 to 30, at Golaghat from May 11 to 14, at Dibrugarh from May 25 to 28, at Dulliajan from June 8 to 11, Nagen Hazarika Major Ranking from July 4 to 6, RG Baruah Major Ranking from July 7 to 9, at Don Bosco School, Guwahati from July 22 to 25, at Jorhat from August 12 to 15, at Sivasagar from September 21 to 24, 65th Inter District and State TT Championship from October 2 to 6.

GSA table tennis championship

GUWAHATI, April 8: The Nagen Hazarika Table Tennis Foundation won top two places in the Mohan Ch Das and Sarabala Das Memorial GSA Inter Club Table Tennis Championship at the ABITA Indoor Stadium here last evening.

In the men's final Nagen Hazarika TTF A team beat its B team, Ping Pong Academy A and B teams became third. In the women's category FCI beat Ping Pong Academy A in the final. Maharan AC and Ping Pong B team got third position.

Bopanna, Balaji seal India's place in WG Play-offs

BENGALURU, April 8: India today sealed their place in the Davis Cup World Group Play-offs with Rohan Bopanna and N Sriram Balaji routing their rivals with clinical precision for an unassassable 3-0 lead against Uzbekistan, here.

Bopanna and debutant Balaji defeated Farrukh Dustov and Sanjar Fayziev 6-2, 6-4, 6-1 in the doubles rubber of the Asia/Oceania Group I second round contest at the KSLTA stadium. Uzbekistan needed to win the doubles rubber to keep the tie alive but the Indians proved too good for the visitors with Balaji making an impressive debut.

Ranikumar Ramanathan and debutant

Prajnesh Gunneswaran had handed India a comfortable 2-0 lead yesterday by winning the their singles against Temur Ismailov and Fayziev respectively.

Tomorrow's reverse singles now will have no bearing on the outcome of the tie and will be the best of three sets.

India has now qualified for the World Group Play-offs for the fourth straight year. They lost to top teams – Serbia (2014 in Bangalore), Czech Republic (2015 in New Delhi) and Spain (2016 in New Delhi) in previous three years in the Play-offs.

The Play-offs will be held in September and India's next opponents will be known later when draw will

be made in London.

It was a tremendous start for Mahesh Bhupathi as captain of the team. Bhupathi had chosen Bopanna over veteran Leander Paes, who is one win away from making the world record for most doubles victories in Davis Cup history.

Balaji not only served well he showed skills at the net and gradually started to return well. Bopanna, whose weapon is his booming serve, carried the teammate nicely and his single-handed returns proved too hot for the Uzbeks.

The Indian duo decimated the Uzbek pair which was reflected in 16 aces they sent down against the rivals' just one. They also grabbed points on their first serves at the rate of 92 per cent compared to the rivals' 62.

The Indian duo also hardly bungled when they missed an opportunity on the pressured second serves. They served at the rate of 94 per cent as

against Uzbekistan's 50 per cent.

Both Bopanna and Balaji served well and it was key to their stupendous success. The ball zipped off the court and with Bopanna and Balaji being tall customers, they were able to extract bounce.

They targeted Fayziev throughout the match and the strategy paid off as they broke the Uzbek twice in the opening set and early in the third to put the foot on gas.

Dustov fought hard but he too felt

the heat and was broken in the 10th game of the second set, which was

the best in the match. It was on serve

till the ninth game when Dustov came

out to serve to keep the set alive.

A foot fault at 15-30 and the following double fault put him down 15-40, facing two breakpoints. With Bopanna making superb returns, Dustov struggled to handle a ferocious shot from him and netted it, handing India a set lead.

Uzbek failed to post any fight in the third set with Bopanna and Balaji racing to a 4-0 lead with double break. - PTI

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2 WOMEN PLUS
Notice how?

3 FICTION
Life on a deathbed - II

4 THIRD EYE
Rolling through time

The Assam Tribune

Sunday

Coffee at Saigon

BHASWATI K. GOSWAMI gives voice to the many charms of Vietnam.

We had to literally walk through racing two-wheelers, holding onto each other for dear lives as they zoomed past. In a city of ten million, there are seven million bikes. We thought Indian traffic was bad!

It was nearly the Vietnamese New Year, when we reached Ho Chi Minh, the commercial hub of Vietnam, formerly Saigon, named after the river which flows alongside. It was warm, the airport was packed. Everywhere we were greeted with the traditional *Chuk Mung Nam Moi* to usher in this Fire Rooster Year.

Ho Chi, which reminded me of Kolkata, with the same pulse and vibrancy, has French colonial landmarks, elegant boulevards and War history museums. The houses were narrow, much like the Dutch canal houses, to avoid being hit by highland taxes. We walked around town, negotiating traffic like bravehearts. The streets were lined with vendors and artists, beautiful pieces to be picked up for a bargain. The art of calligraphy finds good expression in Vietnamese scrolls made of bamboo, with matted silk paper. Gifted hands make exquisite cans and rattan furniture, wood carvings and masks. The women were beautiful silk *Oudais*. Everywhere Kumquat and peach blossom trees, considered auspicious, were being carried in bikes to adorn homes for the upcoming new year or *Tet* holidays. With a weak currency Dong, even to pay basic bills was in thousands. It made better sense to pay in dollars.

We found the right coffee shop to enjoy Vietnamese coffee, the dark roast coffee, blended with sweet condensed milk, another French legacy. We posed by the Notre Dame Cathedral awestruck, even the stones used for this was apparently brought from Paris. Standing magnificently at the heart of the city, the Central Post Office and Saigon



Opera House are still functional beautiful colonial era buildings. We met interesting people who have made Vietnam their home. The young American Logan who had come to teach English but decided to stay back and open a BBQ joint. Frenchman Anthony Jones helps his Vietnamese fiancée Hanh Polly run her family restaurant, Bunn Oi. We spent one evening at the Pasteur Street Brewing Company, trying out wonderful real ale (craft beers). We sipped Vietnamese coffee and relished *pho*, a Vietnamese noodle soup consisting of broth, rice noodles, herbs and meat.

Hand, up north, the capital, a two-and-a-half hour flight from Ho Chi, much cooler, is where traditional Vietnamese culture blends with the French. It is here that they have tried to keep Ho Chi Minh alive at his Mausoleum. Kathy, our young guide tells us that the

Vietnamese would like to believe that he is just sleeping peacefully. We joined the long line, his body lay in the central hall of the mausoleum as if in deep slumber. We spotted some locals getting emotional inside. We also saw the ceremonial changing of guards outside the mausoleum. Close by, the One Pillar Pagoda, with Goddess Tara inside rising from one pillar in the centre of an elegantly square-shaped lotus pond, was a unique piece of traditional architecture.

Impressive stone stele records of imperial examinations of the Le and Mac dynasties were preserved in the Temple of Literature. The Water Puppet Show, a traditional art has existed for about 1,000 years, showcasing the daily life of Vietnamese farmers – with cymbals, gongs, flutes, and other traditional instruments creating beautiful music. We took a cycle trip (a bicycle pulled

cart) around the Old Quarter or the French Quarter, the city's main tourist destination, packed with charming colonial architecture, pagodas, boutique shops and art galleries. The preserved shop-houses that lie along the narrow roads were built over a century ago. The cycles, where we sat in front of the drivers, confidently manoeuvred their way through all of this, constantly pressing the little bells to ward off passersby as we soaked in the fascinating sights and sounds, praying that none of the bigger busses fail to see our frail ones.

A highlight of the trip was the overnight stay on a cruise vessel *Flamingo* at the picturesque Ha Long Bay, a four-hour drive from Hanoi. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is known for its emerald waters and towering limestone islands topped by rainforests. Junk boat tours and sea kayak expeditions take visitors past islands named for their shapes, including Stone Dog and Teapot islets. *Flamingo*, with a great crew led by an energetic, witty Johnny had about 25 guests on board, mostly Europeans who were as musical as they were concerned about the leaves with our better boats turned tail and ploughed them into the icy water. Thankfully they came out alive and just about kicking! On-board, cooking, Tai Chi lessons and endless conversations, with the cool breeze brushing past, helped the guests bond.

We were well taken care of by Kathy and the gentle driver Mr. Dung, who drove us back and forth in his old but reliable Ford Transit. It was an emotional moment at the Hanoi Airport as we bid farewell. Kathy, as old as our children, carried a traditional Vietnamese breakfast and walked with us all the way to the security gate, making sure we didn't have problems communicating. We parted, promising to meet again, sometime, somewhere. Hoping I told you they also smile a lot here? *Tam Biet*, Vietnam!

(bhaswatigoswami@yahoo.co.in)



Music of the maestros



Dr. Manash P. Goswami

Paul Leroy Robeson, whose *'Ol' Man River* emerged as his signature tune, was one among the versatile Black American Civil Rights activists of the 20th century. Born on April 9, 1898, in Princeton, New Jersey, he was a man of exceptional talent – a theatre artist, actor, singer, footballer and activist.

Nearly three decades later, Bhupen Hazarika, the golden voice of Assam, was born in 1926 in Sadiya, the Northeast frontier of British Raj. Like Robeson in the USA, the multifaceted talent of Hazarika, from singer to poet, actor to director, journalist to author and lyricist to music composer, could win the hearts of millions of people of the Indian sub-continent from the early decades of the 20th century.

It was destiny that Hazarika met Paul Robeson in Columbia University, USA, in the 1950s. Bhupen Hazarika, who himself was an ardent supporter of freedom and equality, became Robeson's good friend in a short span of time.

The Indian Peoples Theatre Association (IPTA) played an important role in the growth of the socialist ideology in young Bhupen Hazarika in his formative years. His fine song *Agnijugor fittingo moi*, written at the age of 13, depicted his revolutionary mind talking about establishing a new Assam of equality. Under the guidance and support of Jyotiprasad Agarwala and Bishnu Prasad Rabha, young Hazarika wrote, composed and sang several revolutionary songs for the awareness of freedom, justice and equality among common people.

Paul Robeson was the youngest of five children, of a father of a runaway slave. He knew both hard-

ship and determination to rise above it from his childhood. He rose to prominence at a time when the segregation of Black and White people spread hatred across the United States of America. The incidents of Black people being lynched by racist mobs was very common during that period. The social deprivation of basic rights, often encountered with racist comments and the struggle to earn livelihood made him pen down songs that advocated anti-imperialism, affiliation to communism and criticism of the United States Government.

Robeson's extensive travel introduced him to the university of human suffering and oppression. He vehemently fought for an anti-lynching law, promoted African self-rule, appealed for helping the victims of the Spanish Civil War, supported India's Independence and championed equality for all human beings.

With his God-gifted rich bass voice, he sang highly engrossing lyrics of independence, freedom, equality and universal brotherhood. The rising influence of the activism of Robeson among the Black and poor people irked the establishment, which later blacklisted him during the McCarthy era.

When as a student of Columbia University, USA, Bhupen Hazarika met Paul Robeson, the belief of

masses in the true sense of the term, who reflected the changing times with socially, economically and politically relevant songs. His musical contribution to awaken the Assamese people to *Bhasha Andolan* is highly appreciable.

Paul Robeson and Bhupen Hazarika may have been born in different places, different times and with different ethnicity, but their influences still exist among different generations of people. They are remembered as great singers, actors and activists who fought for social justice and ethnic amity by blending entertainment with responsibility.

Bhupen Hazarika and Paul Robeson may have been born in different places, different times and with different ethnicity, but their influences still exist among different generations of people. They are remembered as great singers, actors and activists who fought for social justice and ethnic amity by blending entertainment with responsibility.

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Shaping Spring

In this evocative piece,
ASHA KUTHARI CHAUDHURI
encapsulates the spirit of Spring.

Who is best suited, really, to write a song of Spring, an ode to the *rang* – the colours that come with that eternally eulogised season of Rongali Bihu? The young. So what can someone who is now looking towards the mellower climes of autumn have to say about a time that can genuinely only be felt, lived and celebrated by those in the prime of youth?

The conundrum that Yeats articulated in *Sailing to Byzantium* comes to mind: his lamentation for that aged man who is "but a paltry thing / A tattered coat upon a stick" who gazes at the young "caught in that sensual music", forever enamoured of life, "*In one another's arms, birds in the trees*..."; and "all neglect / Monuments of unaging intellect". Even so, it is Spring again, as the year rolls by and another Bihu begins to create that buzz all around you. And with it comes nostalgia that is so characteristic of folks who have lived out a large part of their lives. And memory.

Of the time when I was a little girl of about seven, and would wait endlessly for the *huchori* groups that would come dressed in full Bihu regalia, would play and sing, and dance with us and then move on, and another group would come, the cycle repeating itself throughout the day. And then the preparation to visit the big *Bhutols*, all goggle-eyed about the lights, the sounds and the crowds.

Of the time when things changed; when the *huchori* groups came, but were distinctly less resplendent; and then they stopped coming altogether. Life and times had changed. We were now in an urban jungle, growing haphazardly, with scant regard to what was becoming extinct. Yes, there was the excitement of Bihu still, but a very different one – this was a much more commodified event. But the Bihu *Pranams* were still exchanged, and we still visited the elders and extended family and friends, only the *ganochas* were no longer woven at our villages, they were mass produced and 'imported' from elsewhere. But Bhupenda still sang and the air was still honeyed by songs that sank into your subconscious.

Of the times when we lived in the shadow of threats, ransom notes and identities that clashed, rather than meld, like they used to, in another time, in another memory. We had stopped going to community events. The *Bhutols* were warned not to besmirch the purity of the Bihu song with Hindi film songs. The celebrations of Bihu, of course, continued with all fanfare.

The city grew. The streets remained narrow. The traffic burgeoned. Everybody had cars. Or bikes. And the *Bhutols* became techno-savvy. Yes, in our time, we live-stream performances and Assamese communities from the world can come together and celebrate the advent of Spring. There are multiple television channels that showcase the latest songster



whose work has gone viral on YouTube. We are spoiled for choice. There are malls all around, and we are all shopaholics – Bihu is just another excuse to rush to the nearest one. And while the *mehkela chador* is now showcased at innumerable Fashion Week events across the globe, the tradition of weaving at home is almost extinct. And so while a few wear organically produced breathtakingly beautiful garments, the erstwhile fine-lined 'common' folks simply cannot afford a new set.

But ah, the mind veers towards a political bend that is really not our focus here. I was trying to fathom if it was at all possible, in the middle of one's life, having collected all these memories through the years, to find a truly resonant song of the Spring. A season where it is truly, tangibly, possible to taste those lost joys – not the kind that may only be relived through nostalgia.

Strangely, I find, the answer is yes. When a research scholar comes to you with a gift, you look at her sternly in the eye and say that you cannot allow her to buy gifts for you. She looks squarely back at you and says, "But Ma'am, I didn't buy this. *Nijei bonaisi*." Defeated, you relent. You cannot disappoint her. You unwrap the gift, and you gasp – it is a lovely handwoven eri shawl. "Did you this for me?" "Yes, *Baitlew*, my Ma helped a bit, but I learnt how, because you keep reminding us that little things like these are disappearing."

When one is surrounded by the young in their prime (and teaching at the university, I blessedly am) one is infected by their *joi de vivre*; the spring in their step is contagious, and their smiles invite reciprocation. So yes, the paradox that Yeats struggled with remains. But when the young surround you, it is still possible to sing a song of Spring, a Spring that you helped to shape.

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Life on a deathbed - II

FICTION

Munni Bora

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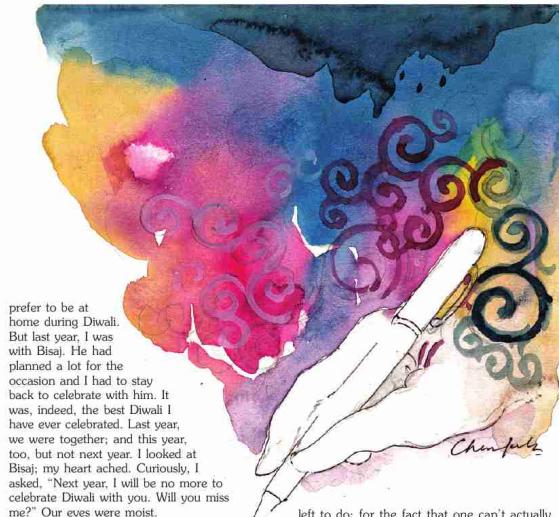
All I could think at that moment was, "Dada, the things which are so important to you, has got no value for me. You could have understood only by stepping into my shoes! At this point of my life, nothing can be more valuable than time, because that is the only thing that I don't have."

Bisaj calls me every day. Just like he did on the day I got my report; but something was different that day. As soon as I received his call, he asked, "Is everything fine with you, Naina?" I was stunned, but more than that I was happy that he had sensed it. "I am dying, sweetheart. I wish I could have spent more time with you. I wish we could have re-lived all those beautiful moments once more, or that I could beautify all those odd moments when we fought! I wish I could have woken up in your arms every morning." Unfortunately, I could not say any of that and ended up saying that I was fine and just that I wanted to meet him in the evening.

Finally, on April 30, two days before my birthday, all my family members got together. It felt like a complete family. No one knew anything; perhaps, all they could imagine was that I would announce my marriage. First day went in full enjoyment. Everyone was busy. The whole house was filled with laughter and giggles. It was heartwarming to see my parents playing with their grandchildren. I could not gather the courage to give them the heartbreaking news that day.

But the next day, after having a good lunch, I showed the report to my brothers. I remember their faces very well. The joyous environment at home suddenly came to a halt. It was pretty difficult to calm down my mother. She was constantly crying and complaining to God for His cruelty, while the rest of the family got busy, analysing where I would get the best treatment. I wanted to tell them that it would just be a waste of money; better to invest in some good time together.

Tomorrow is Diwali. I am trying to recall every beautiful memory I have of Diwali. I enjoy Diwali a lot, since it's my favourite festival. I



prefer to be at home during Diwali. But last year, I was with Bisaj. He had planned a lot for the occasion and I had to stay back to celebrate with him. It was, indeed, the best Diwali I have ever celebrated. Last year, we were together, and this year, too, but not next year. I looked at Bisaj; my heart ached. Curiously, I asked, "Next year I will be no more to celebrate Diwali with you. Will you miss me?" Our eyes were moist.

"No," he further added, "because you will be with me next year and on every Diwali." I smiled at his impractical words. I asked him to hug me and he did. "Can you get me a piece of paper and pen?" I whispered into his ear.

Basu, I know how desperate and helpless you became when you came to know that I was dying and you could not do anything about it, not even see me once, because I was far away from you on this hospital bed, in Mumbai. Wondering how I know? Megha told me everything. She felt sad seeing your miserable situation and that's why she told you where I was, breaking the promise she had made to me. I know, you regret for being ignorant about me. Please don't be sorry any more. Because I can't thank you enough for all the happiness that you have given me in the last few days of my life, and I mean it, sweetheart.

Take care, Naina.

HEALTHWISE

Mitali Sharma

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Challenges of autism

Luit is a four-year-old, cute and cheerful boy. He is loved by the entire neighbourhood, which he likes very much, but on talking to him, he does not respond. He lives in his own world; hardly makes any eye-contact, though he looks at pictures, watches T.V., and loves to play with cellphones. To add to the worry, he does not play with children of his age, though he can walk, run and jump when he is happy; he often plays alone.

A neighbourhood physician advised his parents to visit a speech Language Pathologist (SLP). On doing so, the SLP interviewed the parents and observed Luit's play. He was provisionally diagnosed with 'Autism', which is characterised by challenges in communication, repetitive behaviours and social skills.

Autism is on the rise nowadays; current occurrence of autism is in the ratio of 1:50. The challenges of autism vary widely and could range from mild to a profound degree.

Luit had a moderate degree of autism, a low-functioning one. The SLP counselled his parents to enjoy bringing up their special child, rather than expecting him to be like other children. His speech-language, academic or other skills would be delayed. However, with adequate intervention, his skills could be improved. His parents were suggested to look out for his area of interest and skill.

Almost all children with autism have sensory-integration disorder, though the extent and type could vary. Poor eye-hand coordination could also exist. Luit has both, so he has to go through sensory-integration therapy, occupational therapy and communication therapy, also termed as speech-language therapy.

Apparently, the intervention needs to be regular and for a long duration (may be years). Parents were advised to be attentive, patient and tolerant for a child with autism. He could have uncontrollable tantrums, and outburst, at times, which is when the ABC (antecedent-behaviour-consequences) needs to be figured out and behaviour-management needs to be done accordingly.

We all know that slow and steady wins the race, yet, it is difficult to maintain sanity while keeping a slow pace in this fast-moving and competitive world. Nowadays, every other expert is trying to occupy himself/herself in autism management, though scientific evidence is yet to be reached and output is not known.

Here, it may be mentioned that Brain Function Training is one such trend, which is done by a brain analyst with no medical background. This is preceded by Brain Function Assessment. This is done by a digital EEG and cutting-edge software, approved by the FDA. It is known to improve adaptability, concentration and functioning in a normal person.

SIBO (Small Intestinal Bacteria Overgrowth), also a recent trend based on scientific evidence that an imbalance of intestinal bacteria is responsible for triggering autism, is practised in the West, but is not known in our country.

Till now, effective intervention for autism is the long way of therapy and is applied in many successful centres, improving the lives of children with autism, provided they were identified and taken for intervention before five years of age. It needs to be known that a child with autism would definitely improve in many ways, though he may not be able to talk after intervention.

Apdysia, motor planning disorder co-exists in these children with autism. In such cases, communication would be in visual mode, either through pictures or words, depending on the child's level of understanding.

AAC (alternative and augmentative communication) is not to substitute verbal communication, but to facilitate verbal communication. Hence, one need not worry that using AAC would be an obstacle in speech-language development.

So, even though autism is considered a disability, a child with autism teaches us to see the world differently. Let's see the world through their eyes, since reality is merely an illusion!



MONEY SMART

Dipankar Jakharia

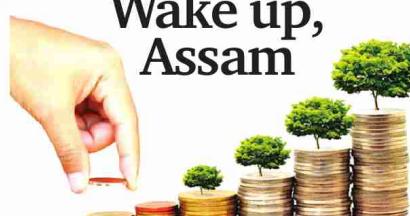
money.smart@assamtribune.com

I knew it was bad. In fact, I was shying away from looking at it for a long, long time. But with the Sensex almost reaching the 30,000 mark and the mutual fund industry also reaching 18 lakhs crore, I said to myself, it is about time. So I called the numbers and forced myself to go through it last night and I stood perplexed. It is like the greatest party happening in the neighbourhood and you have no clue about it. And the worst thing is – you have no one to blame but yourself.

My dear friends, India is growing faster than China and it is estimated that by 2030, it is going to be the third richest country by value of its GDP, right after the USA and China. What does it mean to you? Will it improve your life? Will the life of our children be better than ours? You bet, it certainly will. But my question is – why wait as a spectator? Why not participate in it?

The easiest way to participate in

Wake up, Assam



is through participating in our capital market. If India is growing at eight per cent, then the capital market will grow at a higher rate than that. That means, if you invest in the capital market, your investments will also grow at a higher rate than the GDP of our beloved country. But the question is, how do you invest your money in the capital market? The easiest and safest way is through mutual funds. I have been advocating mutual funds to retail investors since quite sometime. This is the fifth running year of Money Smart and I thought

of its State GDP. Maharashtra's is at 48 per cent to its State GDP, Delhi's is at 39 per cent. To give you another perspective, Assam's per capita investment in mutual fund is Rs. 1,930. Whereas, Maharashtra's per capita is Rs. 72,290 and Delhi's per capita investment in mutual fund is Rs. 10,611.

It is about time you ignore all the crooks and cronies who try to steal your money by promising to double your investment and take you for a ride by means of a chit-fund or ponzi scheme. It is time you join the real party that is happening right under your nose. For my part, I have decided to devote this space in Money Smart to tell you what mutual fund is all about. From the next time – till I am reasonably satisfied, I will devote this space to clarify every detail of mutual fund to you. I advise to you, from the next column onwards, cut the piece and paste it in a diary or a notebook. I would also appeal to all stakeholders, to write to me if I miss a point or two in my presentation or if they have a different point of view. We have missed the first few buses, but not the show.

MY SPACE

Prof. Dr. Madhumita P. Das

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Being a doctor myself, I shall put down this confession first that this is an analysis from the angle of a dedicated doctor of the society who has put down her life for the sake of healing every sick person to the extent that's humanly possible.

People, of late, have been focusing on this relationship in many unpalatable ways, which causes discord in this trust, and down the line raises a volley of accusations about the treating doctor, which not only affects the patient but the doctor as well.

We, as doctors, also have our opinion to voice about this issue as we believe that the first and the foremost cornerstone of this relationship is "TRUST". If you do not trust your treating doctor, however dedicated, sincere or

updated he/she is, the patient or the family can never ever be happy. This is because healing is a science where medicines and surgery have a major role to play and, of course, it's also an art where mutual trust between the healer and the sufferer and the patient's immediate family can modulate the psychosocial part of the healing process.

I shall now openly put down a few confessions from a doctor's angle, who is as much a human being as the patient, but with the knowledge of handling diseases within certain limitations laid down by prerequisites like – condition of the patient on arrival, the infrastructural facilities available, the attitude of the attendants and most importantly, the faith of the patient and the doctor that finally determines the fate of a patient.

It's very important to remember

that not all diseases are curable nor sustainable, otherwise no doctors would have ever died in this world. Sitting in a busy Out Patient Department, whenever a patient walks in, a series of revelations flash across our mind even before we start a verbal exchange of information.

● The patient looks critical/stable.
● The attendants look cooperative and grounded/demanding and super-connected.

But the fact is, whatever be the condition of the patient, the treating doctor would ready to make a fair trial of the situation, often with the informed consent from the family members around, specially if the condition of the patient on arrival looks critical, and proceed with the best possible intention of giving relief. But as I

have already mentioned, the outcome of any disease is never 100 per cent assurable. Unseen factors like luck, fate and destiny also have a role to play but, yes, however serious or critical a patient is on admission, if the attendants are realistic and ready to cope with the situation, there can be no scope of an unfavourable outcome. Often, in lesser equipped centres, the need to refer a patient to a higher centre becomes mandatory, but here also we always take into account the financial and other practical limitations that the party in the picture may have. But in spite of all this care and humanitarian considerations from the perspective of the treating doctor, there are a group of people who can never ever be trusted to react with sanity. They follow no rhyme or reason and believe that the doctor has come

here on duty to cure anyone or everyone knowing fully well that this particular patient is on the verge of death. More so, the situation gets heated when the illness under consideration is a chronic condition deliberately denied or neglected by the person himself or the family members. Of late, we have come across many quacks very generously highlighted by the media to cure illnesses without so-called "side effects", which create a cocktail of mismanagement, toxicities and psychosocial controversies.

But finally, it's my personal opinion that if today the society at large does not bother about this blazing flame it's going to ultimately move to a time when medical professionals will gradually disappear and then I fear we will have no saviours to help us in need.

Doctor, patient – where's the lacunae?

“
But in spite of all this care from the perspective of the treating doctor, there are a group of people who can never ever be trusted to react with sanity.



Rolling through time

Know what? Heraclitus had a point there. He said no man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and has not the same man. I just wished he had included the term women too. For me, it is not so much about stepping into the Brahmaputra as about the images, colours and memories its vast waters awaken in me. It began when I was about five. My quirky dad decided to present me with two double whammies on my unsuspecting self, that long ago sunny afternoon. He hoisted me onto his lap for the first rickshaw ride of my life. What was this winged contraption whistling by, driven by a man with the desperation of one after whom the devil himself was hotfooting? I shrieked, shut my eyes, grabbed my father's shirt pocket and felt the cold rush of the wind all around me. After some moments I cautiously opened one eye and was again dumbfounded. For on the left, with just a sandbank beyond the road, was a vast sea of water rippling in the afternoon light. It winked, it glinted, it beckoned, seduced, and ultimately, ignored the viewer.

ing back after the thin channels of winter, surging our own song, boundless and free. Always on these roads to college, there would be a corpulent man seated on a sheet on the pavement, his back to the river. A parrot frettet about in a cage, and cards were laid out on the sheet. Your future was decided by the parrot selecting a certain card. And the customers were poor men who carried sacks of grains to the godowns and women in sited bubs and gaudy saris who swept the pavements with long brooms. And yet the river behind them, as do the Rhine and Mississippi, the Tigris, Euphrates and the Hwang Ho, remind us by their flowing and hurling, of people loved and fought, dreamed and created even

more babies to crawl around butt naked on those sands. And the breeze catching your hair, till you catch yourself thinking you are almost beautiful and nothing seems impossible any longer, those hills beyond the river seem closer now that you have seen more of the world. In the impenetrability of youth many of us yearned to be like the river – without boundaries, always rolling forward, growing wide and deep with experience, swell-

THIRD EYE

Indrani Raimedhi



For on the left, with just a sandbank beyond the road, was a vast sea of water rippling in the afternoon light. It winked, it glinted, it beckoned, seduced, and ultimately, ignored the viewer.

It will take longer than you might usually think to sort out your money, business, house, apartment, possessions or charity. As a typical Aries person, you may want to get moving, but in actual fact, the next few days are useful, as you need time to think.

FORECAST

APRIL 10 – 16, 2017

ARIES



It will take longer than you might usually think to sort out your money, business, house, apartment, possessions or charity. As a typical Aries person, you may want to get moving, but in actual fact, the next few days are useful, as you need time to think.

TAURUS



Devote as much time as you like to yourself, as this is not narcissism. It's common sense. When you have a lot of activity in Taurus, your own sign, you need to step back from your mirror image.

GEMINI



This week will involve matters which are hidden below the surface, under the radar, or issues which make you invisible, as you will be behind the scenes. This is really about operating at a distance, not making any credit, getting any recognition.

CANCER



The time has come to read hearts and minds, within the group. One friend, in particular, may be your biggest concern. This is going to take time. You do need to make some kind of trade-off where the controls are concerned.

LEO



All the focus in your chart right now is on your status, your success, your position – and also your ambition. This is going to be a huge deal when everything changes, quite radically, and you either reshape what you are doing now, or make the most dramatic move into quite a different territory.

VIRGO



Virgo, the areas of life affected now include travel, foreign people and places, regional differences, publishing, education, academia and belief systems of all kinds, from quantum mechanics to astrology.

LIBRA



The process with the money, house, possessions, business interests, apartment or charity might normally take two to three weeks to sort out, but this is not a normal time of the year. Even though the actual compromise may be over by the end of April, what has been under discussion will take you right up until the end of May, to put to rest.

SCORPIO



The person on the other end of the see-saw is central to everything between now and May 21, when the rocking finally stops. He or she may be part of your love life (past, present, potential). Partners on this cycle can also be purely professional.

SAGITTARIUS



Sagittarius, this week, there is a traffic jam, in one area of your life. Which area? Work and coursework. Unpaid work and university life. You might call it, the daily grind, or daily round. This part of your horoscope also describes your body, and the impact that your physical state or condition has on your life.

CAPRICORN



You will have major decisions to make, one year from now, that are 'seeded' in the events that begin this week. Capricorn, you do have a lot of thinking and talking ahead about your line of succession. Just remember that it may take longer than usual.

AQUARIUS



You will move or renovate from May 2018, which you might already know. If you don't know about this, perhaps it's time to start playing with impossibilities, as well as possibilities! Certainly, this week has its part to play. In fact, family and hometown appear to be in the very centre of things.

PISCES

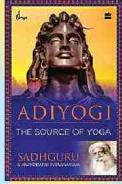


Pisces, you will spend the next few weeks (until May 20) trying to figure out your next big idea, course or concept. This is a natural medium for your 'voice', no matter if you work with words or images. You also need to be aware of the delays.

PAGE TURNER

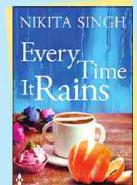
The following are books to look out for this month when you need reading material for those quiet weekends.

Adiyogi: The Source of Yoga



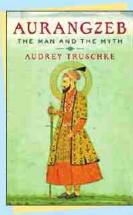
Shiva is that which is not, a primordial emptiness. He is also the first ever *Yogi*, *Adiyogi*, who perceived the emptiness. *Adiyogi* is both a symbol and myth, outlaw and ascetic. In this book, science and philosophy mingle seamlessly. Sadguruji's wisdom is compelling.

Every Time It Rains



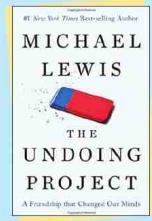
Rescued in a storm, Laila is forced to look back on her life and priorities. An enthusiastic entrepreneur, she also feels some of life's questions still remain unanswered. This is the story of a woman who once faced heartbreak, but found the strength to love again.

Aurangzeb: The Man and the Myth



Aurangzeb Alangir (1658-1707) was the sixth Mughal emperor and continues to be a controversial figure till date. This maligned ruler took the term 'religious zealot' to a new high. Many of the negativities were spread by colonial historians and now a different picture is emerging. Audrey Truschke rewrites the life of this misunderstood emperor.

The Undoing Project



There are geniuses who work alone and those who form partnerships. Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky met in the 1960s warton Israel. Both were gifted psychology professors. Their friendship became a grand project of science, but got tragically unravelled. Their ideas have shaped our world and Michael Lewis does a fine job of portraying them.

5 THINGS/ Communication matters

"It is the duty of the government to reach out"

MARUF ALOM underscores the role of communication in today's world.

1 Social capital is the need of the hour

To develop and maintain relationships with field specialists is the mainstay of modern professional environment. I recall that when the Publications Division brought out a book *The Legend of Indian Silver Screen* to celebrate the legacy of Dadasaheb Phalke award winners, I was given the responsibility of coordinating with eminent film critics and authors from across the country.

2 Communication is a wide field

The field of Mass Media has a lot of avenues and scope. However, the knowledge about the field is very limited, and often confusing. The scope of Mass Communication opens a plethora of opportunities in both government and private sectors. Public relations, advertising, television, films, publishing, journalism, editing, direction, etc., are the traditional fields, while in recent times, digital communication has emerged as a new field, which has brought a paradigm shift in the relationship between media and society.



3 Indian Information Service not much talked about

The Indian Information Service (IIS) is an all India cadre-based central Civil Service with posts across the country in different media units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. The service acts as a communication link between the government and the citizenry through media units like the Publications Division, Doordarshan (DD), All India Radio (AIR), Press Information Bureau (PIB), Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), etc.

4 Effective communication is a must

Outstanding communication skills are an essential attribute in the field of Mass Communication. Especially for an IIS officer, it is important to maintain proper communication channels with different stakeholders in the government, as well as on the grass-root level.

5 Community participation is key

India is the world's largest democracy. It is the duty of the government to reach out to its citizenry through various communication channels to inform, educate and engage about the various rights-based schemes that the government has initiated. Citizens' community becomes a key element herein.

(As told to Indrani Raimedhi)

FILM INTERVIEW

Rani returns

Rani Mukerji took a break from the life she knew to concentrate on the life she made – Adira. As she returns to the set to shoot her next film *Hichki*, she talks about what drove her back to work (her hubby), what drives her to act (the love of her fans), and what she dreads (not giving her best to her work). Read on for excerpts...

■ Excited about being back on a film set?

I still don't know if I am ready to get back to work. I have said yes to working again. But, I don't feel the same way about work now like I used to. I had given Adira. Right now, though work is something which gives me happiness, the joy that Adira gives me is just too special.

■ So, what brings you back?

I have a lot of people who love me and my work. I think it's my responsibility to keep doing films, so that they get to see a part of me that I am known and loved for. I think working is very important for every woman. It's a special feeling for a woman when she is independent. There are a lot of mothers who dedicate their lives to their children, and that's absolutely great and I respect their chosen path, too.



■ Are you doing any preparations for *Hichki*?

Yes, from the last one month, I have started to prepare for the film. You know, I always used to wonder about the film I'd start with, after having Adira. I get emotional when I get to hear from my PR team that my fans keep asking about my next film. I want to honour that by doing a film which is worth their while and they can be proud of.

■ Will you come back to work full-time?

No. It is about doing a film every year. I don't want to do four films a year. I don't want to take away anything from my motherhood, and from my time with Adira.

■ Why did you choose *Hichki*?

I really liked the script and said, "Okay, we can go ahead with it." Then it hit me, I have to leave my daughter and go to work.

My husband feels that if he hadn't have pushed me, I wouldn't have come back. I would be very happy being with Adira whole day long. And that's true.

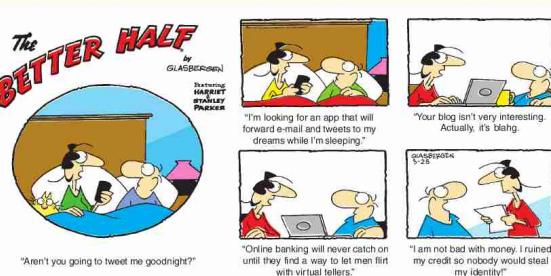
■ Do you think Aditya's involvement with Adira will increase now?

I think it will be the same. Adi is too involved in his work. He probably leaves last from the office. I am trying to change that now because he has to understand he has a child waiting for him at home. Now, every day, I manage his time, so that he comes back at a time when Adira has not yet slept. In the morning, he has his time with Adira.

■ Is he a better husband or better father?

Adi is a better husband than a father, definitely. Till now at least, and I hope that he remains a better husband. Men become good fathers by default, but it is very important for men to be good husbands. So, I'd want him to remain a better husband all his life.

- India Blooms News Service



Ramkumar gives India lead, beats Temur in opening singles

BENGALURU, April 7: Ramkumar Ramanathan overcame a spirited challenge from Temur Ismailov to hand India a 1-0 lead against Uzbekistan in the Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Group I tie here today.

Ranked 267, Ramkumar eked out a 6-2, 5-7, 6-2, 7-5 win over the Uzbek, who is ranked 406, in the opening singles rubber of the second round tie.

Prajnesh Gunneswaran, ranked 287, makes his India debut against Sanjar Fayziev (376).

To his credit, Ismailov made life difficult for the Indian despite suffering cramps in his right hamstring.

Ramkumar dominated the proceedings before a bout of double faults handed Ismailov a small opening, which the Uzbek grabbed with both hands to make a match of it.

The Indian sealed the opening set in a jiffy and was leading



Ramkumar Ramanathan of India plays a shot against Temur Ismailov of Uzbekistan during the first day of Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Group I tie in Bengaluru, on Friday.

Ramkumar stay alive and fight.

The Uzbek played freely while Ramkumar put himself

set points and was eventually broken in the 12th game.

The Uzbek had snatched the

momentum but suffered cramps in his right leg in the third set, making the job of the Indian easy. Ramkumar ran away with the third set as Ismailov's restricted movements gave him easy points.

Ismailov, though, recovered remarkably after a medical timeout and was back ready for the fourth set. Ramkumar was always catching up with the Uzbek, holding his serves without fuss, and soon it was 5-5.

Two unforced errors by Ismailov gave Ramkumar three break chances. He converted the third when Ismailov buried a return to the net.

Ramkumar's unforced errors continued as twice he sent down double faults on match points. He though sealed the match with a forehand volley winner.

The winner of the tie will qualify for the World Group play-offs, to be played in September. -PTI

MSD reprimanded for IPL breach

NEW DELHI, April 7: Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been reprimanded for breaching the IPL code of conduct during the match between his team Rising Pune Supergiants and Mumbai Indians in Pune.

Exactly why he was given a reprimand by match referee Manu Nayyar has not been specified by the IPL.

"MS Dhoni admitted the Level 1 offence (Article 2.1.1) for conduct that is contrary to the spirit of the game," read an official IPL statement.

"For Level 1 breaches of the IPL Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding," it added.

During the high-octane clash, Dhoni had asked for a DRS referral when it was not for the taking. -PTI

isn't burning too bright. Gayle was let down in a recent league and Watson is trying to push the clock back. Young Kedar Jadhav holds the line-up between these two poles.

Bangalore is in need of early momentum. It didn't come

against Hyderabad in the IPL opener but it must against the teams from the North. An early surge could well turn into a gallop by the time Kohli and De Villiers return.

During the high-octane clash, Dhoni had asked for a DRS referral when it was not for the taking. -PTI

These two South African left-handers could have shepherded the young batters to the high-veld. In many ways, this is a setback akin to that of their today's rivals. Bangalore are those who are without the likes of Kohli and De Villiers; Rahual and Sarfaraz Khan.

Gayle

Watson

Kohli and De Villiers

Rahual and Sarfaraz Khan.

is a side which boasts a few of India's best young talents. Karun Nair, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant and Aditya Tare are kind of dry gunpowder which can fire cannon far and wide. With Rahul Dravid in the backroom, Delhi is no one's free lunch.

This surge of young promise can make up for the absence of JP Duminy and Quinton de Kock.

Delhi is no one's free lunch

Delhi arguably has the best bowling line-up this season. Pat Cummins and Mohammad Shami, to go with Zulqarnain Khan, Chris Morris and Amit Mishra, and no less than Rabekhan in the wrap, must batmen sober. It is also a side which boasts a few of India's best young talents. Karun Nair, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant and Aditya Tare are kind of dry gunpowder which can fire cannon far and wide. With Rahul Dravid in the backroom, Delhi is no one's free lunch.

This surge of young promise can make up for the absence of JP Duminy and Quinton de Kock.

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