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NEWS CAPSULE

Ultras nabbed

GUWAHATI, May 3: Three suspected members of the Karbi Anglong-based militant outfit United People's Liberation Army (UPLA) were apprehended with arms and ammunition today from Khetmangam during a joint operation by Maran police and 19 Jat Regiment of the Army. Those arrested are Bijoy Engti, Longri Teron and Karuna Teron. — Staff Correspondent

Stake sale

NEW DELHI, May 3: The Cabinet today decided to sell the Central Government stake in three ITDC hotels, including Brahmaputra Ashok, Guwahati. The Central Government owns 50 per cent stake in Brahmaputra Ashok with the Assam Government accounting for the rest. — Spt Correspondent

The Assam Tribune on Internet
<http://www.assamtribune.com> &
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3 ACS officials held for paying cash for their jobs

STAFF REPORTER

remanded them to 14-day police custody.

The arrested ACS officials are Circle Officer, Sipajhar Amit Jyoti Sarma, Circle Officer Nalbari Bhaskar Chandra Deba Sarma and Circle Officer Hailen Bhaskar Chandra Deba Sarma arrested in connection with APSAC scam. — UB Photos

After the accused were produced before the court, intense arguments and counter-arguments were submitted by both

special public prosecutor BK Mahajan and defence lawyer AK Bhuyan which lasted for nearly 40 minutes.

While the defence lawyer cited academic excellence of two of the accused to prove his case before the court, the prosecution countered it stating that academic brilliance of any candidate does not merit a thoroughfare for jobs under the APSAC.

The special public prosecutor also submitted that the custodial interrogation of the arrested accused was necessary to unearth more such names

(See page 4)

Revival of tripartite panels boost to implementation: AASU

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 3: The most important outcome of the last round of tripartite talks involving the Central and State governments and the All Assam Students Union (AASU) on implementation of the Assam Accord was revival of the tripartite committee of implementation of the clauses 6 and 7 of the Accord.

Talking to *The Assam Tribune*, AASU president Dipan-

ka Kumar Nath said the tripartite committees were defunct for more than last 15 years and during the tripartite meeting, both the Central and

Assam Accord

State governments accepted the revival of the committees with three members each from the Central and State governments and the AASU. The first meeting of the tri-

partite committees is scheduled to be held this month.

As per clause 6 of the Accord, the Centre assured to provide constitutional protection to the indigenous people of the State, while in clause 7, an assurance was given to take steps for all-round economic development of the State to improve the standard of living of the people.

Nath said that the tripartite committees on the clauses made considerable progress during the discussions held up to 1998 when GR Pillai was the Joint Secretary (NE) of the Ministry of Home Affairs, but the progress was stalled due to lack of interest of the State and Central governments.

The AASU president pointed out that Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh had assured to hold another tripartite meeting within the next two months to review the progress made in implementation of the Accord. He said

(See page 4)

Bhutan snubs regional road pact; no setback, asserts India

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, May 3: India today downplayed reports that Bhutan's rejection of the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement (BBIN MVA) was a setback to India's ambitious proposal.

"It is not a setback and it's understood that all the members are fully committed to the BBIN framework," said Gopal Bagay, official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, briefing newsmen here.

"However, all members may not have the same speed on the matter so we continue to be committed to the BBIN agreement, because it is a means to foster sub-regional cooperation in areas of common interest. It is not a setback and not a rejection," he said.

Interestingly, the "Three Year Action Agenda" released

(See page 4)

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Activists of Mod-Mukta Asom Dabi Samity staging a protest rally demanding an alcohol-free Assam, in Golaghat on Wednesday. — UB Photos

Dress code for Govt employees mooted
STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 3: The Assam Government may issue a circular asking its employees to wear traditional dresses on specific week days.

Principal Secretary (Personnel) PK Borothakur has written a letter to his counterpart in the General Administration Department PK Tiwari, asking him to consider issuing a circular in this regard.

"It has been observed that there is no dress code of officers and employees in general for normal office works. On the occasion of Civil Services Day, 2017, as per an appeal by the Chief Minister, many officers

(See page 4)



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Required accountant having experience of 2-3 years, well versed with Tally, MS-Excel. Can maintain independently all books of Accounts, monitor stock and inventory levels. Interested candidates may send their resume to spandan.bio@gmail.com. SV/P/AP27/1

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One girl post of Computer cum Receptionist is lying vacant at Skyscrapers Real Estate (P) Ltd. Ghatmarg, Guwahati. Contact: 96788-0051. SV/P/8846/1

Required for Manufacturing Unit in Ghy. Exice Officer (min. 2 yrs. exp.), Tendering Officer, Billing Clerk (M) (B.Com with Tally), 10 mos ITI (any Trade). (Salary negotiable). Contact: 97065-31859. SV/P/8858/1

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A reported Pvt. Ltd Co. urgently requires experienced applicants for the post of Site Charge on ongoing Road Construction works. Interested candidates may send their Bio data to email id: ranacconstruction@gmail.com. SV/P/AC75/1

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Kill leaders, not jawans: Pappu Yadav tells Maoists

PATNA, May 3: Controversial MP Pappu Yadav urged Maoists to kill political leaders instead of security personnel, saying the former "footed" the country while the latter provided it security.

"Politicians (leaders) are looting the country, so Maoists should kill them," the expelled RJD leader said in Hajipur town. Pappu urged the Maoists not to kill the security forces.

Now heading the Jan Adhikar Party, Pappu Yadav also asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi why Maoist attacks continued despite demonetization. "Modi had claimed that corruption, terrorism and Maoist problems will be eliminated after demonetization," he said – IANS



Members of the Kerala Private Medical Technicians Association taking out a march to Kerala Secretariat for job protection, in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. – UNI

Army test-fires Brahmos land-attack missile for 2nd day

NEW DELHI, May 3: For the second consecutive day, the Indian Army today successfully test fired an advanced version of the Brahmos land-attack cruise missile in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The test firing was carried out by the army's elite 'Strike One corps' in full operational land-to-land configurations at its full-range, the army said.

"This is the fifth consecutive time when the Block-III version of Brahmos LACM (land attack cruise missile) has been successfully carried out in full operational land-to-land configurations from Mobile Autonomous Launchers (MAL) at its full-range," the army said. The Indian Army which became the first land force in the world to deploy the Brahmos in 2007, has raised several regiments of this formidable weapon. – PTI

Over 100 tortoises seized from train, 1 held

KATHIAR, May 3: Over 100 tortoises were seized today from a train and one person was arrested in this connection from Kathiar railway junction, an official said.

During checking in a general compartment of Ajmer-Kishangunj Garib Nawab Express, the GRP men seized over 100 tortoises and nabbed the man, Railway Superintendent of Police (SP), Kathiar, Unnashankar Prasad said.

The man who brought these animals for delivery to a client at New Jalpaiguri in West Bengal. He had narrated the train with 100 tortoises at Faizabad station in Uttar Pradesh and was paid Rs 300 by a member of a smuggling racket for transportation and delivery of the reptiles to the client, he said. The tortoises will be handed over to the forest department, Prasad added. – PTI

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7 Sarat Bose Road, Dwarika's First Floor, Kolkata - 700 020, along with a DD of ₹ 200/- drawn in favour of 'AMPAI', payable at Kolkata, either in person or through post by 6th May, 2017 within four 4.00 pm.

Helpline: 086977 43363, 094320 11486 | Website: www.ampai.in

AAP suspends its Okhla MLA to pacify Kumar Vishwas

NEW DELHI, May 3: To placate senior leader Kumar Vishwas, the poll-battled AAP today suspended its Okhla MLA Amanullah Khan, who had accused the former of plotting a coup, averting a major internal crisis.

The decision was to suspend Khan from the party's primary membership was taken by the AAP's Political Affairs Committee (PAC) after an over three-hour meeting, a day after Vishwas had threatened to quit the party if action was not taken against the legislator.

Amid growing demand from a section of MLAs for a greater role for Vishwas in the organisation, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said the PAC, the party's top decision-making body, has entrusted him with the responsibility of Rajasthan, which goes to poll by the end of 2018.

Sisodia said the PAC has formed a three-member committee comprising the party's national secretary Pankaj Gupta, Atishi Marlena and Ashutosh Paliwal to look into the statements given by Khan.

Reacting to this, Khan said this was the party's decision, but it was not mandatory for him to present himself before the three-member committee.

However, neither Vishwas nor Sisodia commented on the "coterie" surrounding Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal which had come under attack from Vishwas yesterday. Kejriwal, Sisodia, Vishwas, Marlena,

Gupta, Sanjay Singh, were present at the PAC. However, Durgesh Pathak was not present in the meeting.

The fissure in the party appeared at a time when the morale of the cadre reached its nadir after the party's poor performance in Punjab and Goa Assembly polls and its rout in the Rajouri Garden Assembly bypoll and Delhi civic elections – all in a span of less than two months.

The divide almost came to its tipping point yesterday when Vishwas said Khan was just a "mask", pointing towards a "coterie" surrounding Kejriwal, which was "hating conspiracy" against him.

Several party MLAs, including a minister, were also seen to be hatching Vishwas. Apart from accusing Vishwas of plotting a coup in the party, the Okhla MLA also accused him of being an "RSS-BJP agent". He quit the PAC on Monday after Kejriwal expressed his displeasure.

Vishwas' threat to quit the AAP yesterday, Kejriwal and Sisodia had visited his Ghaziabad residence to pacify him late in the night.

They also took him to Kejriwal's residence where meeting continued until late in the night. However, the meeting yielded little result with Vishwas demanding stern action against Khan.

Vishwas had differed with Kejriwal on the issue of electronic voting machines (EVMs). He had refused to attribute the yesterday to Kejriwal's residence where meeting continued until late in the night. However, the meeting yielded little result with Vishwas demanding stern action against Khan.

Vishwas had differed with Kejriwal on the issue of electronic voting machines (EVMs). He had refused to attribute the

AAP's recent poll upsets to alleged manipulation of voting machines and had instead laid stress on the need to introspect.

He had also pointed out the "communication gap" between the party leadership and volunteers after a string of electoral defeats in the past few months.

"On behalf of the party, I wish to assure the volunteers and office-bearers that whenever a need arises for a course correction in the party, we will sit together despite our agreements and disagreements."

"No one should have a notion that it is a battle for one-upmanship," Vishwas told reporters, adding he had no ambition to become the AAP convener, chief minister or deputy chief minister.

He said some consultations should have earlier taken place now happening. "Also thank volunteers for standing with me during this testing time," Vishwas added.

As the PAC meeting was on inside Kejriwal's residence, the mood outside was pensive and tense as volunteers gathered with a hope that differences between senior party leaders will be sorted.

A majority of them backed Vishwas, who is being seen as "someone speaking up for volunteers". As Vishwas and Kumar emerged outside Kejriwal's residence together and hinted that all is well within the party volunteers cheered and raised slogans. – PTI

AAP a sinking ship, says Yogendra Yadav

CHENNAI, May 3: Swaraj Abhyuday leader Yogendra Yadav today said the AAP was a "sinking ship", and said there was a "naked power struggle" taking place in the Arvind Kejriwal party.

Today it is about power. It is a naked power struggle," he told PTI.

During the rift then, "principles" were put out in the public domain in a transparent way but today's negotiations are taking place behind closed doors," he said.

"Two years ago questions were raised at the peak of power of AAP. Today it is a sinking ship which people are deserting. There is a negative change... People who had invested so much hope at one point are now stepping back," he said.

The AAP was more than a party when it started and it was a "phenomenon" which represented the possibility of

hope and reform in politics, Yadav said.

"Unfortunately that hope has receded and has led to a severe setback for the people," he added.

Post its drubbing in the recent bypoll and MCD polls, the AAP has been facing internal rumbles, with the party today suspending Okhla MLA Amanullah Khan who had accused senior leader Kumar Vishwas of being an "RSS-BJP agent".

The suspension is seen as a compromise after Vishwas had threatened to quit the party. Vishwas had accused Khan of being a "mask" and acting at the behest of a "coterie" surrounding Kejriwal. – PTI

K Viswanath honoured with Dada Saheb Phalke award

NEW DELHI, May 3: Renowned filmmaker K Viswanath was given a standing ovation as he received the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke award by President Pranab Mukherjee at the 64th National Film Awards ceremony here.

A prominent name not just in Telugu cinema but also in Tamil and Hindi films, Viswanath, 87, became the 48th recipient of the Phalke award, the highest recognition in Indian cinema, which includes a golden lotus, a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh, a citation and a shawl.

An emotional Viswanath, who attended the ceremony with his wife Jay Lakshmi, thanked his parents and fans in a brief acceptance speech.

"It is an auspicious occasion to receive this prestigious award. I offer my 'pranams' to my parents and to the Almighty who is everywhere. Thank you to his excellency, the President, honourable ministers and jury members and to all my fans everywhere in India," the veteran filmmaker said.

Lauding Viswanath's contribution to the Indian cinema, Mukherjee said: "I congratulate K Viswanath for receiving the Dada Saheb Phalke award and thank him for his contribution to the film industry, to national unity, integrity and also for conveying strong message of peace."

Information & Broadcasting Minister M Venkaiah Naidu was there that he made entertaining films without violence, vulgarity or fight.

Viswanath directed award-winning films such as *Sambhabharanam*, *Sagara Sangamam*, *Savitri Muthyam*, *Saptha Padi*, *Kaanchor*, *Saving and Fug Utha Insaa*. – PTI

India to ask UK to extradite Mallya

NEW DELHI, May 3: India will press for early extradition of fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya from the United Kingdom when the Home Secretary of both the countries meet here tomorrow.

Union Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi will raise the issue of early completion of the extradition process of Mallya, when he will meet his UK counterpart Patsy Wilkinson, the second permanent secretary to the British Home Office.

The counter-terror cooperation between India and the UK besides a host of other issues will figure in the meeting, officials said.

Issues related to Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, strengthening of the intelligence sharing mechanism and

visa related issues will also be deliberated upon, they said.

The 61-year-old Mallya, who has been living in Britain since last year, was arrested by the Scotland Yard last month on the extradition request of India. Within hours of his arrest, Mallya, who is accused of cheating and frauds, was released on bail by a London court.

The UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) will argue the case on behalf of the Indian authorities.

Mallya, whose now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines allegedly owes more than Rs 9,000 crore to various banks, had fled India on March 2, 2016.

India and the UK have an extradition treaty signed in 1992 but so far only one extradition has taken place. – PTI

'Army's valour should be trusted'

NEW DELHI, May 3: The Army's strategic preparedness and valour should be trusted, the BJP said today, noting that the forces had promised to mount an effective and appropriate response to the mutilation of two Indian soldiers by the Pakistani army.

Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad spoke about trusting the Army in answer to a question on the party's stand on the issue at a press conference here.

About the "misuse" of the social media in Kashmir, the IT minister said it was a serious issue and the government would act appropriately.

The BJP also does not endorse Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti's call for a dialogue in the valley, a senior party leader said. – PTI

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On this Purva Navami Tithi, you left us four years ago. But in every moment of our life, you are in our heart. Your idealism, simplicity and spirituality always inspire us to go ahead in our path. Bless us from heaven.

Bandana
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ACHIEVEMENT



Miss Pranamika Bhuyan has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the Tezpur University, for her thesis entitled 'Chemical characterization of rainwater over Brahmaputra valley'. She carried out her research work under the supervision of Prof. Biju Balen Lal Hossain, Professor, Department of Environmental Science, Tezpur (Central) University. She is the daughter of Mr. Gonesh Chandra Bhuyan and Mrs. Runu Bhuyan of Barpather Town, Golaghat, Assam.
Achieve.../1

ACHIEVEMENT



Dr. Navaneetha Sakunam MD (Pediatrics), DM (Cardiology) completed Fellowship Training in Pediatric Adult Coronary And Structural heart disease Interventions from The Hospital For Sick Children and Peter Munk Cardiac Centre respectively, both under University of Toronto. She has recently joined as consultant cardiologist at Amrita Superspeciality HOSPITAL in Guwahati.

CD/Achieve/P78829/1

TENDER NOTICE

PNIET No: 01/EE/DWS/SD/ AGT/2017-18
Online item rate bids are invited for the following:
Sl. No. 1

PNIET No: 01/EE/DWS/SD/AGT/2017-18,
Name of work: Operation and maintenance of the existing plant in Trajan
Procurement of Alumina Ferric (Grade A) as per IS:299:2012, Fifth Revision during the year 2017-18.

DIN-I No: 93/CE/RD/DWS/2017-18
Estimate Rate: Rs. 4,14,636.00
Earnest Money: Rs. 4,14,636.00
Tender Fee: Rs. 500.00

Period of Completion: 360 (Three hundred and sixty) days

Date & Place of Pre-bid Meeting:

20/05/2018, 10:00 AM/Office chamber of the Executive Engineer, DWS Store Division, Agartala

Last date and time of submission of bid:

Up to 3/06/2018, 05:00 PM.

Last date and time for submission of EMD and cost of bidding: Up to 3:00 PM on 15/05/2018.

Time and date for opening of technical bid: 4:00 PM on 15/05/2018 (if possible).

All documents can be seen in the office of the undersigned.

NB:- This detailed press notice & bid documents for the work can be seen on website: www.tripartitbidders.gov.in and/or www.tenders.gov.in and for any query please contact: 0381-23-02661 or 0381-23-02662. But the bid can be submitted after uploading the mandatory scanned documents as specified in the tender document on-line e-procurement website: www.eservice.dws.nic.in

For details please visit: www.tripartitbidders.gov.in and/or www.tenders.gov.in and for any query please contact: 0381-23-02661 or 0381-23-02662. But the bid can be submitted after uploading the mandatory scanned documents as specified in the tender document on-line e-procurement website: www.eservice.dws.nic.in

To whom it may concern:

By order
Family Court of Court of
Kamrup

CIVIL/JLN/PV8849/1

CNN refuses to air Trump ad

WASHINGTON, May 3: A leading American media house has refused to air an ad made by President Donald Trump's team on his first 100 days in office because of its labelling of several prominent news anchors as "fake news," a term often used by him to describe the media coverage critical of him.

The CNN refused to run the ad that highlights Trump's accomplishment during his first 100 days in office, to which the narrator in the video says: "You wouldn't know it from watching the news." The ad then features images of CNN anchor Wolf Blitzer, MSNBC host Rachel Maddow, and others along with the graphic reading "fake news."

In a statement, CNN said it requested that the advertiser remove the false graphic that the mainstream media is "fake news." "The mainstream media is not fake news, and therefore the ad is false and per policy will be accepted only if that graphic is deleted," it said.

The Trump campaign later blasted the CNN in a press release, titled, "Fake News Station Refuses to Run Ad Highlighting The President's First 100 Days." "It is absolutely shameful to see the media blocking the positive message that President Trump is trying to share with the country," said Michael Glassner, campaign's executive director, in the press release. "It's clear that CNN is trying to silence our voice and censor our free speech because it doesn't fit their narrative." The release further says the "CNN takes issue with the ad's message calling out the mainstream media for peddling fake news and not reporting on the fact that President Trump is making America great again."

PTI

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF PUNJAB JUDGECOURT NO.1 KAMRUP ATGUWAHATI

LEGAL NOTICE

Case No. F.C. (Civil) No. 554/2016
Miscase No. 01/2016
Monisha Goswami
..... Petitioner

Vs
Jyoti Goswami
..... Opposite Party

To:

Jyoti Goswami
Son of Hemanta Goswami
Resident of village Dhamchari
Post Office: Sata-Barora
District: Assam, Assam, PIN - 781349

Whereas the petitioner has filed the instant case under section 19(2)(b) of the M.A.

1955 seeking divorce and maintenance pending lie against the opposite party and it hereby show cause that if you not appear on 3/05/2017 which is the next date fixed for hearing then your case may be decided in your absence.

Given under the seal of the Court on 20/04/2017

By order
Family Court of Court of
Kamrup

CIVIL/JLN/PV8849/1

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT (The High Court of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram & Arunachal Pradesh)

(Civil Appeal/Original Jurisdiction)

RFA No. 92/2006

The Union of India & Ors.
..... Appellants,
..... versus

On the date of sole plaintiff
Mahakali Das and his legal heirs

1. Sri Biplob Kumar Das
2. Sri Dipan Das
3. Sri Dipan Choudhury

Smt Banarsi Choudhury

All residents of Ambigapatty, Silchar Town, P.O. Srichar-P.4, Sbarakar, Dist. Cachar, Assam

..... Plaintiff's Representative

To: 1. Sri Biplob Kumar Das, 2. Sri Anup Kumar Das, 3. Smt Banarsi Das, 4. Smt Banarsi Choudhury

All residents of Ambigapatty, Silchar Town, P.O. Srichar-P.4, Sbarakar, Dist. Cachar, Assam

Whereas the above named

appellant has filed a writ petition

against the State of Assam

and decided ex-parte, in your

absence on the aforesaid date or

thereafter as the business of

the court permits.

Given under the seal of this

court on 25/04/2017 at

10:00 AM.

You are hereby informed to

appear either personally or through

authorized Advocate on this date

in this court on the said date i.e.

27/03/2006 (Decree signed on

27/03/2006) passed by Mrs.

S. Begum, Commissioner of

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**Tribute**

GUWAHATI, May 3: Students and fans of late Prof Kesavamanda Dev Goswami will hold a programme at the Jyotinagar Naamghar here at 4.30 pm on May 6 to pay tribute to the noted Sankaradeva scholar.

Noted Satyriya exponent Justin Goswami and Dr Dipali Phukan Patguri of the Gauhati University will speak on Prof Dev Goswami in the programme, a press release stated.

Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup Metro Dr M Angamuthu has sanctioned Rs 10,000 each for families whose houses have been damaged in the fire, as immediate relief.

A total of Rs 4.6 lakh has already been sanctioned for the 46 affected families.

After the completion of the damage assessment, full payment to the affected families will be made.

Sufficient quantities of food items, drinking water and medical assistance have been made available by the district Directorate of Handloom and Textile, Assam.

"The administration is taking necessary steps for the children who have lost their study materials during the fire by providing free books and study materials. In this regard, affected families can contact the Circle Officer of Kamrup Metro Dr M Angamuthu," said Dr Angamuthu.

He added that if any NGO or other social organisations want to help or support the affected families, they can contact the Circle Officer of Kamrup Metro Dr M Angamuthu.

Dr Angamuthu has ordered Saharia for a detailed enquiry into the incident and asked him to submit the report within seven days.

Officials added that when the incident took place, the SDRF responded immediately and carried out search and rescue operations and controlled the fire from spreading further.

Kamrup Metro admin to take all steps for victims' rehabilitation

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 3: In the aftermath of the fire incident on the SK Bhuyan Road at Ambari here on Tuesday evening, the Kamrup Metro district administration today said that it would take all the necessary measures for the rehabilitation of the affected families.

Adequate arrangements for temporary accommodation of the fire victims have been made in the Assam Textile Institute and at the office of the Directorate of Handloom and Textile, Assam.

Ambari fire

Administration.

“The administration is

taking necessary steps for

the children who have lost

their study materials

during the fire by providing

free books and study materials.

In this regard, affected fam-

ilies can contact the Circle Officer of Kamrup Metro Dr M Angamuthu,” said Dr Angamuthu.

He added that if any NGO or other social organisations want to help or support the affected families, they can contact the Circle Officer of Kamrup Metro Dr M Angamuthu.

Dr Angamuthu has ordered Saharia for a detailed enquiry into the incident and asked him to submit the report within seven days.

Officials added that when the incident took place, the SDRF responded immediately and carried out search and rescue operations and controlled the fire from spreading further.

Security at Janata Bhawan tightened

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 3: In view of the increased threat perception and changing security scenario in the Janata Bhawan complex, the Secretariat Administration Department has issued

a circular which has proposed several new security measures.

All officers and staff, including Grade IV employees of Assam Secretariat, officers and employees of other offices as well as police personnel must display their identity cards during office hours and at the time of entry. Any briefcase, bag, laptop, camera or other electronic equipment or machinery items, etc., carried by anyone will have to be declared at the time of entry to be checked and scanned by security personnel and also at the time of exit.

Persons visiting the Janata Bhawan on behalf of any firm, company, association, office and department must carry an authorisation letter, besides their identity cards and visitor passes, the circular stated. Items which may be perceived as items of security risk will not be allowed to be taken inside.

All persons other than the

officials of Assam Secretariat and visitors showing their identity cards and visitor passes will be subjected to search and frisking by the security personnel at the time of entry as well as at the time of exit. All visitors must enter their exit code at the Ganesh Bhawan at the time of exit, failing which they will be denied entry next time.

Inverted mirrors will be used by the security personnel for thorough checking of vehicles at the time of entry and exit, the circular added.

NF Rly employees feted

GUWAHATI, May 3: The Northeast Frontier Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (NFRWWO) on Monday felicitated 26 Group D Railway employees from all divisions for rendering outstanding service.

The felicitated employees are all field-level workers who were honoured for their outstanding performance to ensure safe and smooth movement of trains. Felicitating the employees, Sunita Singh, president of NFRWWO, underscored the significant role of all field-level employees and urged them to continue with their good work for the organisation. — Staff Reporter

'Vibrant North East' from today

GUWAHATI, May 3: The Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) is organising an event 'Vibrant North East 2017' at the Veterinary College playground, Kharapara here from May 4 to 6.

Vibrant North East 2017 aims to provide an opportunity

for the region to showcase its potential to the rest of the country, partnering and engaging to explore the opportunities and participating in the growth and development of the region, a press release stated.

The three-day meet will bring a large number of national

and international stakeholders from the industry, institutions, government and development sectors to showcase their programmes and schemes, products, technologies and services and deliberate upon the issues and opportunities and the way forward. — Staff Reporter



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জমিয়ত আইনী সাহায্য কোষলে সহায় আবেদন



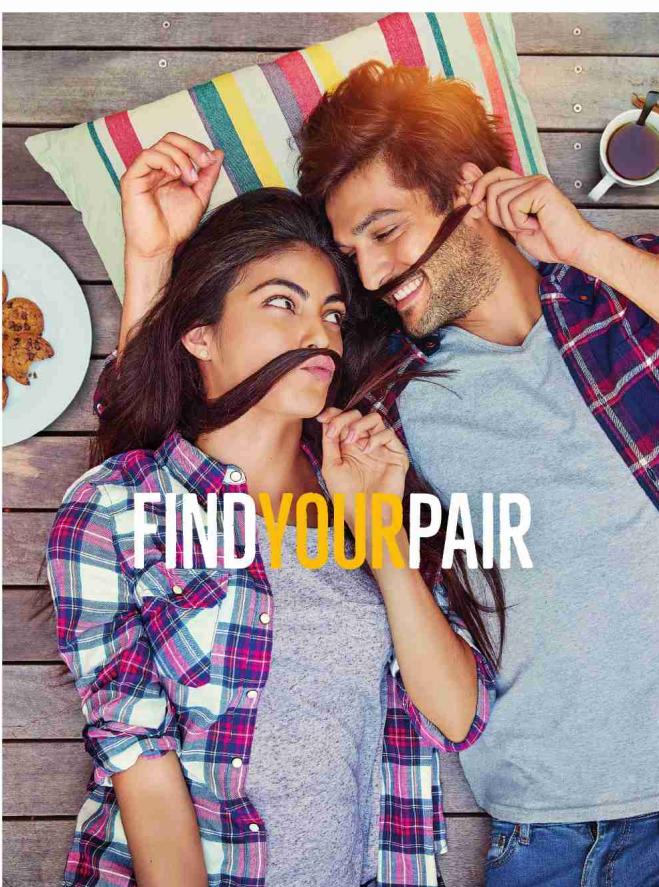
শারীরিক সজ্ঞানী ঐতিহাসিকভাৱে জমিয়ত ভূমি-ই.

বিশ্বসন্তুষ্ট মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰীগণকৰ্ত্তৃত সকলক নিভৰ ধৰণে সহায় কৰি আহিছে। এই খৰচালিকতা ঐতিহাসিক অংশতে পৰিষ্কৰণ কৰিছে। বিভিন্ন সময়ৰ বৰ্তমানে হোৱা নিৰ্মীয়া বাঞ্ছিত তথা সম্বৰে তিতেও হাৰালাই কৰিছি হোৱা ভাৰতীয় নাবিকৰ তথা অ্যালান কেৰেল তামিত ভূমি-ই। সদৰ আলোচনা আহিছে সম্পত্তি উলামাই একাধিক মোকদ্দমা উচ্চ তথা উচ্চতম স্বাভাৱিক চৰাক আছে। জমিয়ত আইনী সাহায্য কোষলে সহায় কৰিব আহিছে। সদৰ আলোচনা আহিছে আলোচনা আহিছে। আলোচনা আহিছে। আলোচনা আহিছে। আলোচনা আহিছে। আলোচনা আহিছে।

অসম বাণিজক জমিয়ত উলামা, ৩-ক্ষেত্ৰ পথ, হাটীগাঁও, ওৰাহাতি-১৮

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MESSAGE FOR TODAY

If someone steals your password, you can change it. But if someone steals your thumbprint, you can't get a new thumb. The failure modes are very different.

— BRUCE SCHNEIER

The Assam Tribune

Privacy concerns

Permanent account number card, popularly called PAN card, is widely used to establish one's identity, as also while carrying out financial transactions. At airports or railway stations the display of one's PAN card can adequately meet requirements to prove one's identity vis-à-vis the name printed on the ticket. PAN cards are accepted in lieu of passports while checking in at Indian hotels while banks have made it mandatory to insert one's PAN card number while depositing cheques or transferring money. Thus, given the importance of this card to the system, it is a wonder that anyone can acquire it without hassle, based simply on supply of a photograph and document proof of identity, residence etc., which are not subjected to rigorous checks. It may be noted that police verification is required for the issue of a passport, but this is not the case with that of the PAN card. This is not surprising that a racket has mushroomed around the acquisition of this vital instrument, with touts securing them for their customers in lieu of payment of a commission. Nor is it surprising that unscrupulous individuals obtain multiple PAN cards and use these to carry out unscrupulous financial dealings. As testified to by India's Attorney General before the Supreme Court which is hearing a petition on this issue the problem of fake or duplicate PAN cards is getting out of hand.

Out of 29 crore PAN in India, around 10 lakh had been cancelled due to multiplicity or being fake. This, according to the AG, was the rationale for linking Aadhaar to PAN, since it would create a more robust system to ensure that the identity of a person cannot be faked. So far 113.7 crore Aadhaar cards, based upon the biometric system of scanning an individual's fingerprints and iris, and therefore authentically establish that person's unique identity, have been issued in the country. There appears to be substance to the AG's submissions made before a bench of India's Supreme Court hearing petitions challenging the linking of Aadhaar to PAN on the ground that this would endanger a person's right to privacy and amount to bodily intrusion. Considering that the PAN card is being used to generate and launder black-money used for unscrupulous acts like terror funding, adding an irrefutable identity cross-check is perhaps just the right step to prevent misuse. So far, despite the enormous number of Aadhaar cards issued, there have been no case of duplication or leak; this perhaps by itself negates the privacy concerns expressed by the petitioners. However, the issue at the moment being sub judice, it would not be pertinent to make observations till the case is over. No doubt the learned judges will ponder over the arguments proffered by both parties and come up with judicious directives based upon them.

AAP's decline

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which burst into India's political landscape a few years ago promising to clean up the entire system and bring transparency and probity in governance and administration, has in recent months witnessed massive infighting and dissidence. The party, which swept to power in the Delhi Legislative Assembly polls only two years ago, has since then not been able to show up anything worthwhile to the voters of the country. AAP's dream of national expansion has turned out to be an illusion. In the recent Assembly polls to five States, AAP put all its focus and energy on Punjab and Goa. However, it failed miserably. In Goa, the AAP even failed to open its account. In Punjab, it was badly trounced by the Congress, though it did manage to emerge as the principal Opposition party leaving the SAD-BJP alliance in the third place. Interestingly, Punjab was the State from which all of the four MPs of AAP had won during the 2014 Lok Sabha polls. Since then the party has failed even to keep its small flock of MPs together and two of them have already either been suspended from or have left the party. And now, on top of all its recent misfortunes, AAP received a major trouncing in the recent polls to the urban municipal bodies in Delhi. This had been preceded by the AAP candidate losing deposit in a bye-election to the Delhi Legislative Assembly. BJP, in power in all the three municipal bodies in Delhi since the past one decade, not only retained all of them but the seats secured by the saffron party even increased. The latest upsets in Punjab, Delhi and Goa has led to major dissension within AAP. The party has already seen many of its founder members leaving the outfit or expelled from it during last two years, including senior leaders like Shazia Ilmi, Yogenra Yadav and Prashant Bhushan. Now another co-founder of the party and noted poet Kumar Vishwas has come out in public against the leadership.

AAP's sudden decline has made political pundits comment about the limits of parties which focus on single issues. AAP leaders, from party boss and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to those down at the local level, should realize that running a political party is very different from conducting an agitation. Voters of Delhi had elected an AAP Government in 2017 with the hope that local civic problems and other issues would be addressed. Instead of focusing on Delhi and consolidating its base by performing in governance, the party's leaders sought to expand nationally. In the process, it lost its original base to a very great extent. AAP also has developed the habit of not allowing divergent voices to emerge within the leadership. Kejriwal and Co must rethink their strategy or else the nascent party will only suffer more losses and setbacks.

State of our universities

ROUGH & TUMBLE
Patricia Mukhim

These days universities are ranked by different agencies including the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). Those who are part of universities that score above others in that fact. There are in this country a total of 712 universities some of which function in the breach and are beset by problems such as funds constraint, no proper campus, and hence the inability to attract good faculty and students. Assam has two central universities, 12 state universities and four private universities. Surprisingly, a small State like Meghalaya has one central university and eight private universities, some of which we have hardly heard of, so you wonder what these universities actually teach and what sort of students they churn out. The quality of their research work etc. Another surprise State is Arunachal Pradesh with one central university and seven private universities while Manipur known for academic excellence in different fields has two central universities and only one private university. Mizoram has one central and one private university and Nagaland has one central and two private universities. Tripura has one central and one private university while Sikkim has one private and two private universities.

The question is also why there are so many private universities in the region! Do small States actually need so many universities and are those universities actually delivering on their mandates or are out to exploit the vulnerabilities of the region such as absorbing students who are un-

able to gain admission into central universities. The next question is whether every graduate needs to enter a university. And this brings me to the crucial point as to what are the objectives of a university. The mission of every university across continents is to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence. Above all a university is the place where the questioning spirit is encouraged and where students and faculty contest existing theories and practices and test them against the present realities to come up with new, sound theories to meet the current needs of society. There is supposed to be a close link between society and the university since research after all revolves around societal problems. Alas! This is not happening in our country today. Universities are incestuous spaces where views are exchanged only between university faculty with very little participation from the real world outside the ivory towers.

In most States, universities have distanced themselves to such an extent from the society around them that the only interaction the university faculty have with the outside world is through social media or from their colleagues who have not taken residence within the campus or from university staff and students who live outside campuses. So are universities in India and the region actually carrying out their social responsibilities beyond academics? Another prime purpose of a university is to develop a close relationship between teaching, re-

search and scholarship. These three factors should be seamlessly connected but is that really happening? One has hardly heard of ground-breaking research in any subject from any university in this region. If there have been any and one has missed out, then one would wish that readers point this out so that we stand corrected.

The North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) in Shillong, created in 1973 is yet to discover its spurt of

science of NEHU teachers and students. They have neither countered this survey nor do they have solutions to offer. Some of us feel that a cadastral survey of Meghalaya and compulsory registration of land ownership would throw up interesting results but if such ideas emerge from Universities they would result in policy changes. Considering that Meghalaya is largely a tribal State with a supposedly robust Land Transfer Act that prohibits sale of land to non-tribals except in a small designated area of 1.22 sq km or 301 acres called the European Ward which has reached saturation point since it is also the area with the highest number of government buildings and educational institutions, this means that a tribal elite is depriving poorer tribes of their land. If a university cannot come up with possible answers to what looks like a socio-economic crisis in the making, then one wonders what the role of NEHU actually is.

Of course, NEHU has a galaxy of teachers and students pass out from there every year by the hundreds but they disappear along with their dreams after the convocation. In effect therefore, universities have become job providers for a set of people who then advance their careers but don't care a damn about the growth of their Department or the University.

Nonetheless, NEHU has a galaxy of teachers and students pass out from there every year by the hundreds but they disappear along with their dreams after the convocation. In effect therefore, universities have become job providers for a set of people who then advance their careers but don't care a damn about the growth of their Department or the University.

Recently I picked up a conversation with a faculty from Bodoland University and was informed that this State University is so fund-starved that it can hardly conduct seminars and conferences because even the UGC does not fund them for such exercises. And this is the point about

The Teesta imbroglio

■ Obja Borah Hazarika

During the recent visit by Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh to India, Mamata Banerjee suggested that studies be carried out on sharing of water of three other trans-boundary rivers instead of the Teesta. The three other river systems which were allotted to Mamata Banerjee are the Torsa, the Sankosh and the Raidak river systems. The Torsa river rises in Tibet and flows through Bhutan before entering North Bengal in India, the Sankosh river rises in Bhutan and empties into the Brahmaputra after flowing across the Bengal-Assam border, and the Raidak, a tributary of the Brahmaputra, rises in Sikkim. Though these projects do not divert water, it is asserted the farmers of West Bengal do not receive water during their peak farming season making it difficult for West Bengal to share the remaining water with Bangladesh. It has been reported that in the aftermath of the recent meeting with Sheikh Hasina and Mamata Banerjee, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has constituted a high-level expert committee to inspect the operation, ecological impact and storage of dams and reservoirs in Sikkim on the Teesta river.

Water scarcity of the Teesta is also born out by the manner in which the barrages located on the Teesta river at Gojoldoba at Jalpaiguri district, West Bengal and at Doani in Lalmatiñhat district are currently operating. These barrages were constructed to facilitate irrigation during dry seasons but water is released in the monsoons due to its immense scarcity, leaving nothing for the dry season which makes it unfeasible for West Bengal to agree to a 50:50 split of the already scarce river water.

from where the river originates.

Mamata Banerjee's intransigence with regard to the sharing of the Teesta can be comprehended as a result of several factors. First, is the case of scarcity of water in the Teesta river for West Bengal given the presence of several hydroelectric projects along the river in the State of Sikkim. Though these projects do not divert water, it is asserted the farmers of West Bengal do not receive water during their peak farming season making it difficult for West Bengal to share the remaining water with Bangladesh. It has been reported that in the aftermath of the recent meeting with Sheikh Hasina and Mamata Banerjee, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has constituted a high-level expert committee to inspect the operation, ecological impact and storage of dams and reservoirs in Sikkim on the Teesta river.

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In a tussle between states and the Centre over the final say in the regulation of trans-boundary rivers, the Indian Constitution sides with the Centre as it gives the power to the

Union in case of regulation and development of inter-State rivers. Entry 56 of List I (Union list) places the regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river systems under the control of the Union. Thus, if required the Centre can sideline the West Bengal Government in order to conclude the agreement over the Teesta river. Indeed, during Sheikh Hasina's recent visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi remarked that he believed that "...only my Government and Your Excellency, Sheikh Hasina, your Government, that can and will find an early solution to Teesta water sharing", thereby enunciating the redundancy of the West Bengal Government in this matter. Nonetheless, due to the rise of sub-national diplomacy in India, it will not be prudent to reach a solution on the Teesta river sans the acquiescence of West Bengal.

The imbroglio over the Teesta river thus continues to hover in the background of India-Bangladesh ties. Human interventions in rivers in the form of hydroelectric plants, transfers of river water, linking of water, and dams have often led to untold misery for the masses dependent on the rivers and also unleashed unspeakable environmental havoc. Therefore, a solution to the issue requires to be based on the ecology of the Teesta river and not solely on the available technological wherewithal or political fallout of an agreement.

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir – It is very painful to learn the loss of so many valuable lives of great Indian soldiers in the Kashmir valley. People are wondering why there is a sudden escalation of violence today?

As discussed by various politicians and experts at different for, although, there are both external (Pakistan) and internal factors which are playing important roles in the ongoing situation, it is the internal matter which has taken the toll. The general feeling of the people is that the Modi Government is trying spread Hindutva in the region and because of this religious sentiment, people en masse are coming out of their houses to express their protest and similarly. The greatest failure of the Government is its inability to take the people of the valley into confidence. It is not only Holi or

Deepawali which need to be celebrated in Kashmir by our Prime Minister. It is high time that Eid or for that matter, any other festival which involves the majority of the people of Kashmir too are celebrated to give a positive signal. Moreover, political leaders have to get involved in the basic issues of common man as to restore the confidence of the people.

More spreading of the message of Hindutva or building a Ram Temple will not solve any problem of India, which is surrounded by many. Rather, it will further fragment the society. The latest example being the Kashmir valley which is bleeding relentlessly. Yours etc., DR AK SARMA, Guwahati.

Legal ambit

Sir – This is in response to the letter titled 'Mandir-Masjid Politics' by Sadq Hussain Laskar (April 27). The writer's pragmatic views of despotic policies over religious lines is praiseworthy.

the APSC cash-for-job scam is heading in the right direction. Also, keeping the names of the to-be arrested civil servants confidential looks fair. However, the duration to be taken into account while making this list of framed candidates is unclear. The news article mentions only about five probable candidates, while the number of such candidates would be many times higher. Moreover, one also wonders, if the earlier chairmen/members will be taken into the legal ambit of this case, as there is a high possibility of such scams being in place since earlier times. Surprisingly, this aspect has not been highlighted by anyone so far. Yours etc., DILIP HAZARIKA, Guwahati.

Mandir-Masjid politics

Sir – This is in response to the news article 'APSC candidates securing jobs with bribes to be arrested' (May 2), it seems that the probe in

Religion needs to be at the heart of a practitioner, a pious feeling to both build and propagate and follow but not to be forcefully imposed on others and subject to ostensible display. It needs to be treated as a spiritual path of living a purposeful life. The Government and public alike needs to concentrate on issues of all-round development of the citizens of India, instead of doing politics over religion. But the forthcoming views and accusations of the writer that the Bharatiya Janata Party has been polarising the Hindu belt on issues of Mandir-Masjid politics is not correct and is biased. History has evidence that the former ruling parties created most of the controversies over the controversial Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue. The BJP's win in most parts of India is the result of the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party president Amit Shah as well as the relentless efforts of all the

party workers at various levels. We, the common citizens of India need to give room to the Government to do good governance instead of indulging in false accusations and mud slinging with biased minds. Yours etc., RUPJYOTI SARMA, Rangiya.

Good job

Sir – In the Jocoserial column of your esteemed daily, on April 28, it was rightly said, "Finally we may require the interference of Lord Bishnu to solve three issues—Assam Accord, NRC and Border Fencing." It is widely known that Assam is a land of *lake lake* (slowly and slowly) and Assamese are lazy and unworthy to do any good job! But then who is responsible for not solving the said issues? Yours etc., RAMCHANDRA CHUTIA, Tezpur.

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

STATE CM urges early completion of electrification work

GUWAHATI, May 3: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal directed the Public Works Department to draw a road-map for developing the road starting from Kumbhigram Airport which passes through Silchar, Hailakandi and Karimganj, as a model road with adequate lightings and beautifications, an official release stated.

Chairing a review meeting at Circuit House in Hailakandi on Tuesday, Sonowal stressed on raising the pride of the people of Barak Valley through the construction of quality roads with proper beautification. Stating that Barak Valley is backward re-

gion of the State, Sonowal said that only through development of good communication network the stigma of backwardness can be removed from the valley.

He also said, "It is a challenge for the new government to bring about transformative changes in Barak Valley and to make this happen, people and the government officials must join hands with the government". He also underlined the importance of quality contractors for carrying out development works in an efficient manner and the government is taking initiative to improve the skills of contractors and to motivate the young

entrepreneurs.

Chief Minister Sonowal also lambasted 'Wind Power' company implementing Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana in Hailakandi for its slow progress in the district and asked the concerned authority to pull up its socks and complete the implementation work on a war foot or else it might face action from the government.

Commissioner, Superintendent of Police and Forest Department in the district to immediately carry out a visit to the site and submit report to the government. He also directed the DC to develop an effective implementing mechanism for effective execution of Prime Minister's Awaj Yojana and complete all pending cases by June this year.

In the meeting Chief Minister urged upon the government employees to adopt eve-

Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana

ry person is important mechanism to bring in good governance and people's faith back in the administration. Emphasising that Chief Minister is also a sweater to clean the system for good governance, Sonowal requested the government officers to ensure that the people coming to government offices are respected and their applications and grievances are attended to.

He also said that the Government of Assam is working

with the agenda to ensure equal development of both Barak and Brahmaputra Valley. To realise this all have to work hard with sincerity that have cast on the valley in all these years. Development of Barak Valley is the priority of the State Government and all government officials must ensure that public money is utilised exclusively for public goods. Saying that Barak Valley did not witness development for a long time, Sonowal urged upon the officers to regularly monitor the implementation of the schemes and visit the fields. He also categorically said that strict action

will be taken against all illegal works and cases of misuse of funds will be dealt with sternly.

Government is taking strong action against corruption and all corrupt will have to face punishment. He also said that fear for system will have to be instilled amongst all the employees so that they refrain from corrupt practices.

Chief Minister Sonowal also reviewed the progress of the projects related to Public Health Engineering, APDCL, PMAY, Forest, PWD, Transport, Education, BSNL and Health Department. He also said that government schemes are targeted to benefit the poor and hence they

are to be implemented for the beneficiaries to reap their benefits.

Sonowal also directed DC

Hailakandi to maintain liaison with the MLAs and other government departments regularly for developing coordination and effective implementation of the schemes. In the meeting Sonowal is hailed for taking initiative for declaring 293 km of road in Hailakandi as national highway.

Deputy Speaker of Assam Legislative Assembly Dilip Kumar Paul, PWD Minister Parimal Suklabaidya, several MLAs and all other senior officers were present at the meeting, the release added.

Corruption will not be tolerated: Sonowal

DEBASISH BANIK

BADARPUR, May 3: "The State Government which believes in the all-round development of the State, will not tolerate corruption in any Government department or in other organisations. The BJP wants that both the Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys develop equally and the Government will continue to work for the greater development of all sections of people. In this connection, the Government wants to have a State free from corruption", said Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, at a citizens meet at the Kamrang DC's Conference hall on Tuesday evening.

While reviewing situation in the district, Sonowal said that revenue collection has increased compared to last year as all sections of people have extended their help and cooperation to this Government. It may be stated that this year the total revenue collection has been Rs 2772 crore. Sonowal also announced to set up a tourist centre and one medical college in the district. He also assured that there will be a Skill Development Centre (SDC) in Karimganj district, for the proper utilisation of the human resources in Bar-

ak Valley. The citizens also placed many demands urging the Government to fulfil them without delay.

In this connection, a memorandum was also submitted to the Chief Minister, where a lot of demands were mentioned. The main demands were to remove the problems associated with the NRC update, clarification of 'Assomia'-definition, use of Bengali as the official language in Barak Valley, to take necessary steps for immediate announcement of the Barakbar rail division etc.

After the citizens meet, the Chief Minister also took part in another review meeting with the officials of various departments of the Kamrang district administration. The condition of the roads, PWD's activities, PHE, Power Department's work, along with the floodlighting along the border were discussed. The Chief Minister was distressed to know that the work of setting up of the floodlights along the Brahmaputra Valley and along Indo-Bangla border in the district has not yet been completed, even though Rs 32 crore was sanctioned in 2015 for this purpose. He immediately instructed the DC to look into the matter. Regarding the condition of the people of the ten villages on the 'no-man's land,'

he assured that all necessary steps will be taken to thwart criminal incidents in Bhanga and Badarpur.

Talking to this mediaperson, the Chief Minister while reiterating his Government's resolve to work for development of the Barak Valley along with Brahmaputra Valley, informed that in the month of October 'Namami Barak' river festival will also be celebrated in the three districts of Barak Valley. Replying to another question of this correspondent, he assured that all necessary steps will be taken to thwart criminal incidents in Bhanga and Badarpur.

The programme started with the flag hoisting by the outgoing president of GDMVSTA Nandeswar Bhuyan and it was followed by *smriti tarpan* initiated by the president of the reception committee Md Chirajit Haque and plantation of saplings by the retired teachers of Marangi SB School Farfulla Bora and Jaineswar Haque.

An executive meeting of the district committee was held. The delegates' meeting was inaugurated by Md Chirajit Haque. This was followed by

the open meeting chaired by Nandeswar Bhuyan and was inaugurated by the president of Golaghat District Village Defence Para Md Imran Hussain.

Inaugurating the open meeting, Hussain opined that the students should be given the knowledge of spirituality based on Indian Philosophy. The secretary Kishor Kr Saikia read out his secretarial report. The meeting was attended by Pradip Sonar as the appointed speaker while Ajoy Bora, Dipak Gogoi, Dimbeswar Barua and Joyti Prasad Barua participated as the distinguished guests respectively.

The meeting adopted several resolutions which include appointment of teachers, immediate appointment for the vacant posts of Science and Hindi teachers, appointment of grade four employees, holding

of workshops for the academic development of the teaching staff, allotment of separate fund to pay the electricity bills etc.

Earlier, in the delegates' meeting, 51 member new executive committee of the association was formed with Nandeswar Bhuyan as advisor. Arun Bikash Barua as the president, Apurba Saikia, Arup Mahanta as vice-president, Kishore Kr Saikia as the secretary and Kushal Das, Jairik Ahmed as the treasurer. The meeting also selected Pradyumna Borgohain as the State member. The programme was ended with the illumination of the school premises by the head master of the school Manash Pratim Sarma.

Open quiz on Bihu held: An open quiz programme was held at Dergaon Sarbjani Basant Utsav at Kumargao. The audience starting from the age of three years to ninety years took part in the quiz contest. Rana Barthakur was adjudged for the first prize while Dipanwita Sarma Barthakur and Dipanika Barua were declared as the second and third prize winners respectively. Earlier, the two daylong Bihu programme started with the hoisting of flag by the president of the Dergaon Sarbjani Basant Utsav celebration committee Badan Sarma. The programme included different Bihu dance competitions, cultural function etc.

OBITUARY Pritam Singh

GUWAHATI, May 3: Pritam Singh, an inhabitant of KC Sen Road, Saliopar, Patanbazar, died here in his residence on April 29 last, due to old-age ailments. He was 93.

A prominent social worker Singh was related with various social and religious organisations of the locality.

His *Antim Ardaas* and *Bhog (Sraadh)* will be held on May 8 at Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Panca Bazaar (Sikh Temple).

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

Anirban Kalita

GUWAHATI, May 3: Anirban Kalita a resident of Rehbari, here died on April 29 in a nursing home due to illness. He was 31.

Kalita was also a prominent business man and was associated with several organisations. His death was widely mourned.

He leaves behind his mother and a sister.

RJ Chauhan

CORRESPONDENT
JAGIROAD, May 3: Ram Jiten Chauhan, a retired teacher of Morigon College died last evening at his own residence at Silibhangna here due to cardiac problems. He was 60.

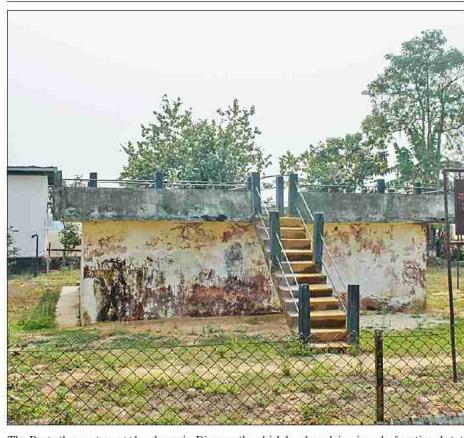
A popular teacher among the students, he was actively associated with college activities, socio-cultural, educational and religious organisations in the area.

He leaves behind his wife, a son, a daughter and a host of relatives.

Somnath Deka

CORRESPONDENT
MORIGAON, May 3: Somnath Deka, a leading citizen and social worker of Morigon district died yesterday at his own residence at Rapagon here due to heart attack. He was 78.

A retired teacher of Mirkhet HS School, he leaves behind his two sons and a host of relatives.



The Barpathar water supply scheme in Biswanath, which has been lying in a dysfunctional state for the last 15 years, as seen on Tuesday. — UB Photos

2-day State conference of MV teachers ends

CORRESPONDENT

HAILAKANDI, May 3: The two-day 52nd State-level conference of All Assam MV School Teachers' Association concluded here on Sunday.

A large number of delegates from different parts of the State participated in the two-day conference which was inaugurated by the president of the State committee member of the Association, Heramba Choudhury by hoisting the flag. The open session held on the occasion too was presided over by Heramba Choudhury and addressed by the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Hailakandi and president of

the reception committee of the conference, FR Laskar, Principal of Women's College, Bijoy Kumar Dhar, former president of Barak Upatyaka Bank Sahitya O Sanskriti Sammilan Nitish Bhattacharjee, Jonai Duddin Laskar, former president of Hailakandi district committee of BJP, Kshitij Ranjan Paul, Rajesh Chakraborty, Riyaz Uddin Barbhuiya, Inspector of Schools Nazmul Haque Laskar, president and secretary of the district committee of the association. Bidhu Bhushan Nath and Samudra Barbhuiya respectively, secretary of the High School Teachers' Association, Mohammed Ali Majhabhuiya,

All the speakers in the meeting stressed the need for imparting education in the mother tongue. They said that the teachers are the backbone of the society and should play their role effectively and urged them to dedicate themselves for the cause of education. A souvenir titled *Silsila Pradip* was also released on the occasion. Various programmes on the occasion included plantation of saplings, cultural programmes etc.

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Hazarika, convenor, Assamese Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. The welcome address was delivered by Dr Mihir Barua, Pramathes Barua College, Gauhati; a one-day programme on the topic, "the presentation of women in Assamese fiction" was held at the auditorium hall of the college recently.

The programme was conducted by Karabi Deka

discussion. They cited various aspects of their story books and novels and referred to women writers like Sneha Devi, Nirupama Borgohain, Chandra Prava Sikiani and a few others.

They also answered the questions raised by the members of the audience. Malabika Dehidar enthralled the audience with a few Goalpariya songs. To conclude the function, Gopal Chandra Barman offered the vote of thanks.

Girindra Prasad Boruah: a tribute



Girindra Prasad Boruah of Charigaon, Jorhat in the name and style "Green Shoes Store". He was an active social and cultural worker till his death and was the life member of Assam Sahitya Sabha. He was closely associated with Bahona College, Bahona High School, Charigaon, Kola, Mandir, Surjyada Sangha, Charigaon Co-operative Industries Ltd from their foundation stage. He published a book

ness at Gar-ali, Jorhat in the name and style "Green Shoes Store". He was an active social and cultural worker till his death and was the life member of Assam Sahitya Sabha. He was closely associated with Bahona College, Bahona High School, Charigaon, Kola, Mandir, Surjyada Sangha, Charigaon Co-operative Industries Ltd from their foundation stage. He published a book

His death was widely mourned. He leaves behind his wife, four sons, two daughters and a host of relatives.

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

—Pran Kumar Bordoloi

**NRL starts
Ayurved course
for paramedics**

GUWAHATI, May 3: The Numaligarh Refinery Limited, under its CSR initiative, has started the Panchakarma Para Medical Ayurvedic Training course for 30 students selected from villages located within its vicinity at Numaligarh site, said a press release.

The initiative was started keeping in mind the Centre's policy of appointing trained paramedics at Ayurvedic centres across the country.

The NRL Sathi grihi Ayurvedic Institute in Guwahati has been training these 30 students since January 2017. 12 students from this group have recently joined the All India Institute of Ayurveda at New Delhi as Panchakarma Para Medical Attendants. At a time when State government jobs have been a far cry for unemployed youths, the selection of 12 students from a remote locality in Assam to join a national institute is being regarded as a remarkable achievement, the release added.

REVISED COMPOSITION OF 12086/12085 DIBURGARH - GUWAHATI (TRI-WEEKLY) SHATABDI EXPRESS

It has been decided to revise the composition of 12086/12085 Diburghar-Guwahati Shatabdi Express (Tri-Weekly) by withdrawing the service of two A/c chair car due to technical reasons with effect from 03-05-2017. Now the train will have eight A/c chair car coaches and two brakes, luggage cum generator car.

**General Manager (Operations), Maligaon
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Govt committed to develop Barak Valley: Sonowal

CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, May 3: Inaugurating the flagship scheme to control construction "Debo na Nebo na" in Cachar district on the occasion of the closing ceremony of the 150 years of the Deputy Commissioner's Office at Cachar district, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today said that just as a sweepstakes takes up a broom in his hands to keep the surroundings clean, as the Chief Minister has resolved to root out corruption in the government.

"We have left behind the era of VIPs andVVIPs culture. Now every person in the society is important and must get to live in a healthy environment. Hence, just as a sweepster does his job to keep the surroundings clean, a rickshaw puller carries passengers from one destination to another, as

development and implementation of schemes meant for the people of the valley. He informed that he had had talks with the officials of the Kameng and Hailakandi districts administrations that shall maintain zero tolerance to all kinds of foul play.

After extending the Bengali New Year greetings to the people of Silchar and Barak Valley in a Bengali accent, Sonowal said, "Barak Valley has immense resources which need to be explored and properly utilized for the overall development of the State."

He added that directions have been given to the Solid and Liquid Resource Management Campaign in the district and inaugurated the Manoran Clock Tower at Madhupuram.

Reiterating that development of Barak Valley is a priority for the government, Sonowal said that his visit was mainly to assess the pace of

development and implement schemes meant for the people of the valley. He informed that he had had talks with the officials of the Kameng and Hailakandi districts

administrations that shall maintain zero tolerance to all kinds of foul play.

He also decided to give tractors to farmers, he said.

Kulsum Begum Laskar and Kalyani Simha, who lost their homes in the recent torrential rains, were given Rs 95,100 as financial assistance for rehabilitation. Also, an ex-gratia amount of Rs 4 lakh was given to the family members of two persons who were killed in lightning. The beneficiaries received the financial grants from the hands of the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister also flagged off the Solid and Liquid Resource Management Campaign in the district and inaugurated the Manoran Clock Tower at Madhupuram.

Earlier, Cachar Deputy Commissioner S Vishwanath

in his welcome address narrated the events of the sesquicentennial celebrations, which started on January 15 this year.



As Naga artistes performing folk dance at the Modotsu Festival at Akunon Naga Basti near Mariam on Wednesday - UB Photos

Mangaldai PWD road freed from encroachment

CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAI, May 3: In a major but peaceful eviction drive carried out in Mangaldoi town, the Darrang administration has evicted encroachers from over a kilometre of PWD road, besides around five bighas of government land under PWD, said Ward No. 6 shortly.

The drive was conducted under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner of Darrang, Salendra Kr Nath had taken a strong initiative to evict mass encroachment in the Baghori area and thus completely freed nearly 200 bighas of government land, which were later utilized to construct several health institutions, including the 100-bedded Maternity and Child Health Care Centre, Regional Diagnostic Centre and residential quarters for medical officers and staff, among others.

The drive was conducted under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner of Darrang, Salendra Kr Nath had taken a strong initiative to evict mass encroachment in the Baghori area and thus completely freed nearly 200 bighas of government land, which were later utilized to construct several health institutions, including the 100-bedded Maternity and Child Health Care Centre, Regional Diagnostic Centre and residential quarters for medical officers and staff, among others.

Meanwhile, local people have demanded similar action against the illegal business establishments along the NH15 at Kharupeta, apart from seven dwelling houses in the PGR land, where cleared of encroachment, the source added.

The said business establishments were allegedly running

illegally under the patronage of a local Panchayat leader.

This was the second eviction drive carried out in Mangaldoi in the last month. The administration is likely to deal similarly with other pending proposals across Mangaldoi, including near Mangaldoi Commerce College at Ward No. 6 shortly.

The result was declared by the NAAC standing committee in its 66th meeting held yesterday, according to a statement issued today by Dibrugarh College principal Dr Parasuram Barua.

The result was declared by the NAAC standing committee in its 66th meeting held yesterday, according to a statement issued today by Dibrugarh University to be accredited with 'A' grade in NAAC this year.

The Dibrugarh College, one of the seven colleges affiliated to Dibrugarh University to be accredited with 'A' grade. Altogether 22 colleges in the State have been given an 'A' grade by NAAC this year.

The Dibrugarh College, one of the State's leading centres of higher education, had to be content with a B+ rating this year.

The said business establish-

No. SIPRD-52/17/11

PRESS NOTICE /FB

Date: 02/05/2017

The Director, State Institute of Panchayat & Rural Development, Government of Assam invites tenders in bid system through e-tendering on flat percentage basis online from approved and eligible APWD (Building) registered contractors of appropriate class for each of the works as mentioned below on APWD SOR 2013-14.

The details may be seen in the website "<https://assamtenders.gov.in/>" from dt. 05/05/2017 to 26/05/2017 and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sl. No.	name of work & location	Estimate Cost	Amount Money	Cost of Tender	Time allowed for Annual Turn over requirement
1	Construction of Administrative Building (G-I) for District Panchayat Resource Centre at Near Bhupura, Dibrugarh, Assam	Rs.83,58,000.00	Rs.1,67,16,00 (For General Category & District Panchayat Resource Centre)	Rs.3,000/-	15 (Fifteen) Months
2	Construction of Hotel Building (G-II) for District Panchayat Resource Centre at Near Bhupura, Dibrugarh, Assam	Rs. 88,23,900.00	Rs.1,76,41,800.00 (For General Category & District Panchayat Resource Centre)	Rs.3,000/-	15 (Fifteen) Months

Note:

1. The tenderer should submit tenders through online separately for each of the packages.
2. The tenderer should quote rate at par, or on flat percentage basis above/ below the Schedule of Rates for P.W.D. Building for all Divisions under Assam P.W.D. 2013-14.
3. The cost of bid for each of the packages must be in the form of demand draft/ banker's cheque of scheduled commercial bank drawn in favour of DIRECTOR, SIPRD, ASSAM payable at GUWAHATI for the amount as shown above and bid security also pledged in favour of DIRECTOR, SIPRD, ASSAM in the form of TDR/ FDR from any nationalized bank as per guidelines of RBI.

Sd/- Director,
SIPRD, Assam.

Janasanayog/301/17

Dated 21/04/2017

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

The Superintending Engineer, PWD, Nagon, Road Circle, Nagon invites tenders after non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and twenty five paise only) for the execution of the work in the table below for the period of 180 (One Hundred Eighty) days from the date of opening of tenders for the work shown in "TABLE" below.

Tender papers may be purchased from the Technical Branch, office of the S.E., PWD, Nagon, Road Circle, Nagon, Assam on payment of Rs. 100/- (Rupees One hundred only) and Non-refundable Court Fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and twenty five paise only).

Tender must be accompanied by the Bid Security money of the amount specified in the table below.

Reserve of scheduled commercial bank drawn in favour of the Chief Engineer, PWD, Dibrugarh, Assam, Chairman, G.O.C. (District Panchayat Resource Centre) for the period of 180 (One Hundred Eighty) days from the date of opening of tenders for the work shown in "TABLE" below.

Tender must be delivered in sealed cover to the Superintending Engineer, PWD, Nagon, Road Circle, Nagon on or before 14.00 Hours on 11/05/2017 in the presence of the tenders and their authorized representatives.

If the tender happens to be closed on the date of receipt of the tenders as specified, the tenders will be rejected and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

If the employer does not intend to accept the lowest tender and also reserves the right to reject all the tenders without assigning any reason, bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria in the instruction to bidders to qualify for the award of contract as mentioned in detailed NIT.

TABLE

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Name of Division	Approximate Estimated Cost of Construction	Cost of Maintenance	Cost of Tender Doc. (Rs.)	Security Amt. (Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	Balance work for construction of Rest of Rest on Panigan to Nongbarba (Panigan to Nongbarba including cross roads and Ramps)	Kalabari Rural Division	18,164	8,14	26,304	700.00	3 (Three) Months

Janasanayog/29/7/17

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, PWD, Nagon, Road Circle, Nagon.

No. 24MPSCDR-23/12/2015

ASSAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Dated Guwahati the 3rd May, 2017

It is informed & known that the Assam Public Service Commission will not Multiple Choice Objective Type Screening test (CMST) for recruitment to the post of Research Assistant under Planning & Development Deptt. as per programme given below. The detailed Syllabus has already been notified in APSC's website (www.apsc.nic.in) on 08/05/2017.

The admission certificates shall be uploaded in APSC's website (www.apsc.nic.in) on 08/05/2017. The candidates shall have to download their own admission certificates from the website.

An intimation letter to the eligible candidates shall be sent separately by post.

Any query in regard shall be entertained over telephone No. 0361-235426 or 0361-236117 during office hours on 08/05/2017.

Sd/- Deputy Secretary

Assam Public Service Commission
Jawahar Nagar, Kharapara, Guwahati-22

No. AF (S) 04/ BR/ 2017/18/15

Notice Inviting Bid

Settled Outcomes are settled from Registration of Marriages and/or Authorised Agents, Registered Supplies affording free stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and twenty five paise only) along with EMD as Cell Deposit Draft from any Nationalized Bank for the ongoing Central Sector Scheme: Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries for the year 2016-17 to be implemented in 26 Districts of Assam.

Bid Document to be purchased from the Directorate of Fisheries, Assam, Meen Bhawan, Bruban, Guwahati-16 from 05-05-2017 to 21-05-2017 during office hours for a non-refundable fee as indicated in the form of Cash/Demand Draft from any Nationalized Bank (Scheduled Commercial Bank) at Meen Bhawan in Guwahati in favour of Director of Fisheries, Assam, Guwahati-16. The cost of Bid Document is Re. 500/- for each package.

The Bid will be received on 01.05.00 pm of 17th May, 2017 and will be opened on the same day at 02.00 pm in presence of the quotulators or their authorized representatives. Bid documents to be delivered directly in the specified box in the Directorate of Fisheries, Assam, Guwahati or may be posted to the undersigned at the rate indicated by the date and time specified above. The undersigned will not take any responsibility for late receipt of the bid or for any delay or other reason.

The undersigned will not be liable for any increase or decrease.

The details of the Bid Document containing schedule of supply to be effected, set of terms and condition of supply and other necessary documents can be collected from the Directorate of Fisheries, Assam, Meen Bhawan, Guwahati-16 from May 5-16, 2017 during office hours.

Janasanayog/42/17

Sd/- Director of Fisheries, Assam

No. AF (S) 04/ BR/ 2017/18/15

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Settled Outcomes are settled from Registration of Marriages and/or Authorised Agents, Registered Supplies affording free stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and twenty five paise only) along with EMD as Cell Deposit Draft from any Nationalized Bank for the ongoing Central Sector Scheme: Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries for the year 2016-17 to be implemented in 26 Districts of Assam.

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Janasanayog/42/17

Sd/- Director of Fisheries, Assam

CAPSULE**Power trade**

NEW DELHI, May 3: With temperature rising, the spot power market at Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) saw about 11 per cent jump in electricity trade during April - PTI

SBI Life

MUMBAI, May 3: SBI Life Insurance today reported 31 per cent growth in its net profit at Rs 336 crore in the fourth quarter of 2016-17. – PTI

Smartron plan

NEW DELHI, May 3: Technology firm Smartron is raising up to Rs 250 crore from investors in the US and the Middle East as it looks to expand its bouquet of products, including smartphones and an electric scooter. – PTI

Arvind Ltd

NEW DELHI, May 3: Textiles firm Arvind Ltd today said its board will meet next week to consider raising up to Rs 500 crore through issuance of non-convertible debentures (NCDs). – PTI

Paradip Port

KOLKATA, May 3: The Paradip Port Trust hopes to auction land for the proposed smart industrial port city project in July, a senior PPTT official said here today. – PTI

MakeMyTrip

NEW DELHI, May 3: Online travel company MakeMyTrip on Wednesday said it plans to raise \$330 million (more than Rs 2,110 crore) through share sale and issuance agreements. – IANS

CBI nabs Mumbai IT commissioner, Essar MD

MUMBAI, May 3: In a major swoop, the CBI on Wednesday nabbed an Income Tax Commissioner, a top official of Essar Group, and four others in a bribery case, and recovered Rs 1.50 crore, officials said here.

The arrested IT officer is B B Rajendra Prasad, an IRS officer of 1992 batch who is currently IT Commissioner (Appeals) - 30 in Mumbai.

The others nabbed include:

Pradyit Mittal, Managing Director of Essar Group of Companies, and Vipin Bajaj, an accounts officer in that company headquartered in Mumbai.

The CBI said that Prasad has recently passed an order in an appeal matter favouring a private trust belonging to the Essar Group.

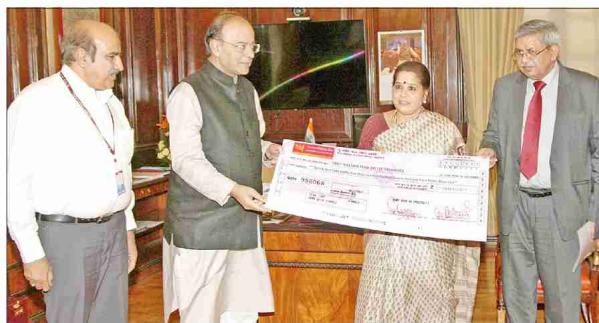
For passing the favourable order, the Prasad allegedly demanded a bribe of around Rs 2 crore and said it should be delivered to Manish Jain, who in turn would transfer it to Suresh Kumar Jain in Visakhapatnam.

Jain, a top official of Essar Group, and four others in a bribery case, and recovered Rs 1.50 crore, officials said here.

Acting on a tip-off, the CBI laid a trap and caught Prasad receiving a part of the bribe amount - Rs 19.34 lakh - from Suresh Kumar Jain.

Both were arrested. The CBI said it had recovered the remaining amount of around Rs 1.50 crore from Suresh Kumar Jain.

The CBI sleuths conducted raids in Mumbai and Visakhapatnam at the offices and residences of all the accused leading to recovery of several property investment documents, details of bank accounts, three bank lockers and other incriminating papers. – IANS



Union Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs and Defence Arun Jaitley receiving a cheque of Rs 29.85 lakh from Managing Director of Punjab National Bank Usha Ananthasubramanian in New Delhi on Wednesday. – PIB

Jute industry facing threat



KOLKATA, May 3: The jute industry is under threat for partial dilution of the mandatory jute packaging order for 2017-18.

"Tomorrow, a Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting is going to be held to discuss jute packaging for the 2017-18 crop year. Along with food ministry even Jute Commissioner's office has favoured dilution," jute

industry sources told PTI today.

The Jute Commissioner's office is likely to recommend dilution in the meeting for foodgrain packaging to 80 per cent against 90 per cent now. However, if favoured retaining sugar packaging at 20 per cent.

Union Food Ministry has instead favoured a late 2018 or early 2019 timeline. "We will be carrying out a consultative process as always to know the views of all the

from jute packaging order, the sources said.

In simple terms, the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act 1987 mandates governments to use jute sackings for mandatory foodgrain and sugar packaging.

Currently, minimum 90 per cent of the foodgrains and 20 per cent of sugar is required to be packed in jute bags.

The jute industry representatives said this year the production is adequate for smooth supply of jute packaging materials unlike last year when there were shortages.

Any dilutions will put lakhs of jobs in West Bengal at stake both in the farm and mill levels. – PTI

Panels to examine financial woes of telcos, power firms

NEW DELHI, May 3: The government has decided to set up inter-ministerial panels to examine financial woes of telecom and power companies and recommend solutions, Communications Minister Manoj Sinha said today.

"The policy reforms and strategic intervention identified by the inter-ministerial group will be examined and processed expeditiously," Sinha said.

The telecom companies have been bleeding due to the pressure on revenue and profitability in the wake of competition intensified by the entry of Reliance Jio.

The minister today said that the customers have benefited from competition in the sector.

"When there is a new entrant comes, this kind of situation is created, but it settles down in a year or two," he said.

Jio's entry, he noted, has not only reduced the tariffs but changed the traffic pattern from voice to data.

The ministry wants competition in the sector and also to ensure strong financial health of the industry, he asserted.

Citing the data explosion in the country over the past quarters, the minister said that the Indian market was large enough to ensure growth for all operators.

Emphasising that the government is well aware of concerns of the telecom sector, Sinha assured that an "appro-

priate action will be taken at an appropriate time."

He said that a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary to discuss concerns of both the sectors.

"The policy reforms and strategic intervention identified by the inter-ministerial group will be examined and processed expeditiously," Sinha said.

The telecom companies have been bleeding due to the pressure on revenue and profitability in the wake of competition intensified by the entry of Reliance Jio.

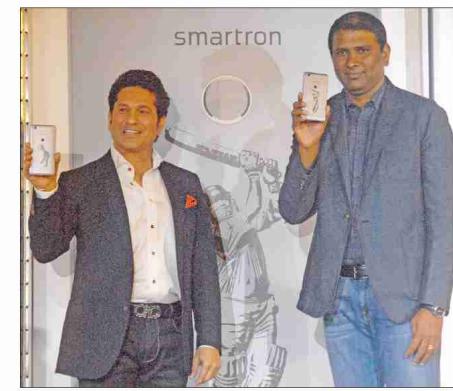
An inter-ministerial group has been created to examine systemic issues of viability and repayment capacity and furnish recommendations for resolution of stressed assets at the earliest. It is for telecom and power," Sinha told PTI in an interview.

According to a government source, similar panels will be formed for some other sectors also.

The ministry wants competition in the sector and also to ensure strong financial health of the industry, he asserted.

Citing the data explosion in the country over the past quarters, the minister said that the Indian market was large enough to ensure growth for all operators.

"Everybody is trying to increase their footprint," he said. – PTI



Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar during the launch of new smartphone of Smartron in New Delhi on Wednesday. – UNI

Union Bank raises Rs 500 cr

NEW DELHI, May 3: Public lender Union Bank has raised Rs 500 crore by issuing Basel III compliant bonds, a step that will add to its core-I capital.

Union Bank said it has issued 5,000 non-convertible, unsecured subordinated Basel III compliant perpetual bonds to-day that will add to its core-I capital.

The Mumbai-headquartered Union Bank's board of directors had approved the capital

value of Rs 10 lakh each at par aggregating Rs 500 crore on private placement basis, it said in a regulatory filing.

Perpetual bonds are treated as equity than debt and so, they do not carry any maturity date.

The bonds will carry a coupon rate of 9.08 per cent payable annually.

The Mumbai-headquartered Union Bank's board of directors had approved the capital

plan for 2017-18 on April 28.

It had announced raising up to Rs 6,350 crore this fiscal in the form of core equity capital and/or additional tier I or tier II bonds for the current fiscal.

Besides, the lender has planned to raise up to Rs 4,950 crore through follow-on public offer, rights and private issue,

including qualified institutional placement or preferential allotment to the government. – PTI

plan for 2017-18 on April 28. It had announced raising up to Rs 6,350 crore this fiscal in the form of core equity capital and/or additional tier I or tier II bonds for the current fiscal.

The bank had made a net profit of Rs 701.89 crore in the January-March quarter of the preceding fiscal 2015-16.

Total income (statedalone) of the bank however, came down to Rs 16,385.76 crore in March quarter, from Rs 18,590.86 crore in preceding fiscal's last quarter, bank said in a regulatory filing.

For the full fiscal 2016-17, bank's net profit was up at Rs 9,801.09 crore, as against Rs 9,726.29 crore.

Total income during the fiscal was up at Rs 73,660.76 crore as against Rs 68,062.48 crore in 2015-16. Bank's net non-performing assets (NPAs) or bad loans as at March 31, 2017 were 4.89 per cent of net advances, up from 2.67 per cent year ago. – PTI

HP unveils new printers

NEW DELHI, May 3: Country's largest private sector lender ICICI Bank today reported manifold jump in standalone net profit to Rs 2,024.64 crore from March 31.

The bank had made a net profit of Rs 701.89 crore in the January-March quarter of the preceding fiscal 2015-16.

Total income (statedalone) of the bank however, came down to Rs 16,385.76 crore in March quarter, from Rs 18,590.86 crore in preceding fiscal's last quarter, bank said in a regulatory filing.

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Govt to construct 35 logistics parks

NEW DELHI, May 3: The government will develop 35 Multimodal Logistics Parks (MLLPs) in the country, which will bring down the logistics costs to a great extent and help the country's economy, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Wednesday.

The Minister of Road Transport, Highways and Shipping was speaking here at the inauguration of the India Integrated Transport and Logistics Summit (ITILS), which aims to facilitate constructive dialogue for the development of multimodal infrastructure in the country.

"We have identified 36 ring roads in the country that will have logistics parks. We have also consulted several stakeholders for the projects," Gadkari said.

According to the minister, MMLPs will serve 50 per cent of the freight movements, enable 10 per cent reduction in transportation costs and 12 per cent cut in CO2 emissions.

For the MMLPs, land parcels have been identified and pre-feasibility studies initiated at six of these locations, he said.

The parks will be developed jointly by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL), other para-statal and the respective state governments, Gadkari said.

"The government is also working to formulate a uniform policy for the development of MMLPs," he added.

The three-day summit, which ends on May 5, will see different agencies, both public and private, mootting multimodal infrastructure in the country through close coordination between various agencies involved in planning and developing transport infrastructure.

Talking about the set-up of several new ports and utilisation of rivers for waterways to reduce the logistic cost, Gadkari said the government has decided to convert 11 rivers into waterways.

A statement from the ministry said that the global summit provided a platform to logistics service providers, concessionaires, end-users and investors to discuss

the modalities for bringing about a transformation in the logistic and transportation scenario in India.

Stating that there was an urgent need to improve logistics costs in India, the ministry in its statement said that currently India has very poor Logistics Performance Index due to an unfavourable modal mix of transport and a lack of seamless intermodal connectivity.

"The ITILS is envisaged as a platform for all stakeholders in transport and logistics sectors to come together and initiate collaborative partnerships to realise the various greenfield and brownfield opportunities in logistic parks, freight corridors and IT solutions" it added.

A recent study, "Logistics Efficiency Enhancement Programme (LEEP)", undertaken by the ministry, has "identified our key solution themes to improve the state of logistics in India, which are freight corridor upgradation, logistics park development, seamless interstate movement and electronic toll collection systems". – IANS



Senior Executive Vice President of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ambuj Chandra during the launch of new bank service in Jaipur on Wednesday. – UNI

UN rights envoy was followed in China, sources intimidate

BEIJING, May 3: A UN envoy on human rights says he was followed by security officers during an official trip to China and the some civil society representatives he met with were intimidated and faced reprisals.

Philip Alston, a UN special rapporteur, said the Chinese government's conduct was at odds with the need for UN experts to have the freedom to assess situations and preserve source confidentiality.

He details difficulties in a final report on his mission to China in August, which was emailed to The Associated Press yesterday. It is to be delivered to the UN Human Rights Council in June.

Alston's report says the Chinese government warned him not to make direct contact with civil society organisations to arrange meetings, and requested full details of private meetings. - AP

US men beats Asian, screams 'We are white power'

NEW YORK, May 3: A 48-year-old man in the US has been charged with hate crime after he pummeled an Asian man in the face screaming "We are white power", "Go back to your country! What are you doing here?", police said today.

Steven Zatorski, stormed up to the 30-year-old victim on Third Avenue in New York and started kicking him on Monday, police said.

"Go back to your country! What are you doing here?", Zatorski, who lives in a million-dollar condominium in the Flatiron District, screamed at him, police was quoted as saying by the New York Daily.

"We are white power," Zatorski shouted as he punched the victim in the face, "according to police."

The two had not spoken before Zatorski attacked; they said. Witnesses to the beatdown alerted a nearby New York Police Department transit cop, who arrested the alleged attacker. - PTI



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Denmark's Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen review the honour guard during a welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China on Wednesday. - UNI

China calls for restraint to defuse tensions

BEIJING, May 3: Amid spiralling tensions in the Korean peninsula, China today urged all sides to exercise restraint and avoid any action that may aggravate tensions.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang expressed serious concern over the continuation of military exercises by the US and South Korean troops that are simulating drills near the border to attack North Korean targets.

Reacting to reports of two US bombers from Guam military base joining the target practice, he said, "We (have) noted the military exercise is continuing. We (have) reiterated the current situation in the Korean Peninsula is

delicate and complicated."

China opposes any side taking action that may aggravate tensions and undermine regional peace stability, Geng said.

"We again urge relevant sides to stay calm and restrained and stop pro-

comment on it.

However, Geng said, "But there is one thing, I want to make it clear if you read closely UN security council (UNSC) resolutions, it clearly states

that the UNSC expresses its resolution to take major measures in re-

Kim Jong-un so far has refrained from conducting the sixth, reportedly under pressure from China as US President Donald Trump has virtually put the onus on Beijing to prevail on the ally Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear programme.

China in recent months has stopped import of coal from heavily sanctioned North Korea as part of the implementation of the UN sanctions which reportedly had a crippling effect on the North Korean economy.

Geng also denied reports that Chinese Embassy in North Korea has asked its nationals to leave the country and return home in view of the tensions. - PTI

Korean peninsula

voking each other and create better atmosphere for dialogue and engagement," he said.

Asked about what would happen if North Korea conducts another nuclear test, Geng said this was a hypothetical question and he would not

sponse to DPRK nuclear tests and launches. The security council has cleared regulations."

North Korea has conducted a total of five nuclear tests, in 2006, 2009, 2013 and twice in 2016.

Mercurial North Korean dictator

Humans must leave Earth in 100 years to survive: Hawking



LONDON, May 3: Humans will need to colonise another planet within the next 100 years to survive climate change, asteroid strikes and overpopulation, according to renowned British physicist Stephen Hawking.

In a documentary, *Expedition New Earth* - part of the BBC's new science season *Tomorrow's World* - Hawking and his former student Christophe Galfard

will travel the world to find out how humans could survive in outer space.

In the series, Hawking claims that time is running out for the Earth and humanity will need to leave the planet for its survival.

The shows aims to find Britain's greatest invention, by asking the public to vote on the innovation which has been the most influential in their lives,

Hawking had said that humans may lack the skills as a species to stay alive. - PTI

The Telegraph reported.

Last month, Hawking had warned that the aggressive instincts of humans, coupled with the fast pace of growth in technology may destroy us all by nuclear or biological war, adding that only a "world government" may prevent this impending doom.

Hawking had said that humans may lack the skills as a species to stay alive. - PTI



French President Francois Hollande (C) and Morocco's King Mohammed VI (2ndR) pose with guests after their meeting at the Elysee Palace in Paris, France on Tuesday. - UNI

China to launch own encyclopaedia to rival Wikipedia

SHANGHAI, May 3: China plans to launch its own online encyclopaedia next year, hoping to build a "cultural Great Wall" that can rival Wikipedia as a go-to information source for Chinese Internet users who Beijing fears are being corrupted by foreign influences.

China is under pressure to write its own encyclopaedia so it can guide public thought, according to a statement by the project's executive editor Yang Muzhi published last month on the website of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

He once listed Wikipedia, which

is available in China, and Britain's Encyclopaedia Britannica as potential rivals and said the project aims to exceed them, according to an article he wrote late last year.

The project, which will be under the guidance of the state-owned China Publishing Group, "must have Chinese characteristics," he

wrote, adding it would be a "symbol of the country's cultural and technological development" and increase its softpower and

revision, the new project, which was approved in 2011, will be entirely written by professionals.

So far over 20,000 scholars and academics have been enlisted to compile the project, which aims to have more than 300,000 entries by its 2018 launch.

The new encyclopaedia will be based on a previous printed version, published in book form in 1993. A second edition, which can be accessed through a special terminal, was released in 2009.

The newest version will be released online after being published in a bound edition. - AFP

China hopes to build a "cultural Great Wall" that can rival Wikipedia as a go-to information source for Chinese Internet users who Beijing fears are being corrupted by foreign influences.

Unlike Wikipedia - and its Chinese version Baidu Baike - which are written by volunteers and are in a constant state of international influence.

Unlike Wikipedia - and its Chinese version Baidu Baike - which are written by volunteers and are in a constant state of

Powerful ISIS blast targets NATO convoy in Kabul

Eight people killed and 28 others wounded

KABUL, May 3: A powerful blast targeting an armoured NATO convoy in Kabul killed at least eight people and wounded 28 today, including three coalition members, officials said in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group.

The explosion, which came during morning rush hour on a busy road near the US embassy and NATO headquarters, killed "mostly" civilians, an interior ministry spokesman said without giving a breakdown.

NATO said three coalition service members had received "non-life threatening wounds" in the attack.

"They are in stable condition, and are currently being treated at coalition medical facilities," a spokesman for US Forces-Afghanistan said, without confirming their nationalities.

China in recent months has stopped import of coal from heavily sanctioned North Korea as part of the implementation of the UN sanctions which reportedly had a crippling effect on the North Korean economy.

Geng also denied reports that Chinese Embassy in North Korea has asked its nationals to leave the country and return home in view of the tensions. - PTI

NATO commander in Afghanistan General John Nicholson said the strike, which triggered global shockwaves, showed there was "no space" for IS in the war-torn country.

Monday's attack comes as the US seeks to craft a new strategy in Afghanistan and NATO mulls boosting troop levels as they face a "stalemate" against the resurgent Taliban.

The blast, which IS said was a suicide car bomb and NATO said was an improvised explosive device (IED), damaged two of the heavily armoured vehicles in the convoy and left a small crater in the road, witnesses and an AFP photographer said.

MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected) vehicles, which are designed to withstand large explosions, are routinely used by international forces moving around Kabul.

At least three civilian cars were also damaged, with one ablaze, while windows were shattered up to several hundred metres away. Firefighters and ambulances rushed stunned survivors to hospital. - AFP



A girl stands above the crowd with the support of an elaborate rig of hidden metal rods, dressed in traditional Chinese costume during the Bun Festival parade at Cheung Chau Island in Hong Kong, China on Wednesday. - UNI

Clinton blames FBI, Russia for presidential poll loss to Trump

WASHINGTON, May 3: Hillary Clinton has blamed FBI director James Comey and Russian interference for her defeat in the last year's presidential elections, saying they "scared off" voters and deprived her of an otherwise expected victory.

The former Democratic presidential nominee, speaking during a charity luncheon, said she takes "personal responsibility" for her loss to Donald Trump in the presidential race.

In her most detailed comments about her defeat since the shock result last year, Clinton blamed Russian interference in the US election and the release of a letter by Comey pertaining to the investigation into her emails just before the polls, saying such factors deserved her of an otherwise expected victory.

"If the election had been on October 27th, I'd be your president. And it wasn't, it was on October 28th and there was just a lot of funny business going on around that," Clinton told CNN in an interview at Women for Women International Forum in New York.

"It wasn't a perfect campaign. There is no such thing. But I was on the way to winning until the combination of Jim Comey's letter on October 28th and Russian WikiLeaks raised doubts in the minds of people who were inclined to vote for me, but got scared off," she said.

"The evidence for that intervening event is compelling, persuasive," she said.

Clinton, 69, highlighted Russia's role in hacking into her campaign's internal emails and

subsequently coordinating their release on WikiLeaks.

"Ask yourself this, within an hour or two of the Hollywood Access tape being made public, the Russian theft of John Podesta's emails hit WikiLeaks. What a coincidence. So I mean you just can't make this stuff up," Clinton said.

"He (Russian President Vladimir Putin) certainly interfered in our election," Clinton said. "And it's clear he interfered to hurt me and help my opponent."

Asked whether she was a victim of misogyny, she said, "Yes, I do think it played a role. Misogyny is very much a part of the landscape politically, socially and economically." - PTI





Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo scores his second goal during the UEFA Champions League semifinal first leg against Atletico Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid, on Tuesday.

Ronaldo hat-trick leaves Real on verge of final

MADRID, May 3: Cristiano Ronaldo proved Atletico Madrid's Champions League dream destroyer once more with a hat-trick as Real Madrid took a commanding 3-0 semifinal, first leg lead here.

Ronaldo extended his lead as the all-time top scorer in Madrid derby by taking his tally to 21 and put Real firmly on course to defend their title in the final in Cardiff on June 3.

The Portuguese rewarded a bright start by heading home Casemiro's deflected cross after just 10 minutes yesterday.

Ronaldo then smashed home from just inside the area and turned home Lucas Vazquez's cross in the final 20 minutes as Real continued their domination of Atletico having eliminated them in the Champions League for the past three seasons.

Real needed a stoppage time

equaliser en route to winning the 2014 final, scored a late winner in the quarterfinals a year later and edged last season's final on a penalty shootout. However, there was more a goal between the sides this time round.

The home fans made sure to put Atletico in their place before kickoff with chants of "kings of Europe" and a "how does it feel" banner alongside a display of their 11 European Cups.

Real piled on the pain in the opening stages for the 4,000 visiting away fans and could have killed the tie in the opening half hour. Atletico were handed a lucky escape from seven minutes when Jan Oblak parried Dani Carvajal's effort at the end of a career-earning run and the Slovenian recovered to also turn behind Karim Benzema's follow-up effort.

There was no let off three min-

utes later, though, as Atletico failed to clear a corner and Casemiro's bouncing cross looped up for Ronaldo to power home a header.

Oblak kept Atletico alive in the moments that followed with a brilliant save from Raphael Varane's header and more comfortable stop on Iago.

However, at the other end, Keylor Navas rescued Real from ceding a vital away goal when he got a touch on the ball as Kevin Gameiro tried to round him when clean through on goal.

The majority of the efforts continued to rain down on Oblak's goal as Luka Modric drilled a shot from the edge of the box inches wide. And Benzema then acrobatically turned a Ronaldo cross just over the bar.

Atletico enjoyed a better spell just before half-time, but all they had to show for it was Diego Godin's way-

ward volley after being picked out by Antoine Griezmann's free-kick.

Real suffered an injury blow right on half-time when Dani Carvajal pulled up with a muscle problem that looks set to keep him out of the second leg.

Clear-cut chances were far harder to come by after half-time as Atletico toiled to create, whilst Real sat on their lead waiting for the chance to counter-attack.

However, once again in ties decide between these two, Real got the slice of luck to go with their extra quality.

The ball rebounded up perfectly off the heels of Filipe Luis for Ronaldo to blast high past Oblak.

Ronaldo completed his second hat-trick against Atletico this season four minutes from time when Lucas Vazquez's cutback picked out the fourth World Player of the Year to slot

home from close range. - AFP

Mandeep's hat-trick hands India 4-3 win over Japan

IPOH (Malaysia), May 3: Striker Mandeep Singh scored a brilliant hat-trick to hand India a fighting 4-3 victory over lower-ranked Japan in a round robin match of the 26th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup hockey tournament here today.

Having squandered the early lead provided by a penalty corner conversion from Rupinderpal Singh, India were trailing when Mandeep got into his goal-scoring act in the second half.

If needed two goals from Mandee-

ep in the last 10 minutes to help India avoid a stunning loss.

Neutralising India's early lead through Kausar Murata's fine deflection in the 10th minute, Japan led twice in the game with goals coming from Heita Yoshikawa (43rd) and Genki Mitani (45th), but they could not overcome Mandee's brilliance.

Mandeep got into the goal-scoring act with a fine touch on a through ball from Harmanpreet Singh in the 45th minute.

He then came back to tap in a square ball from Sardar Singh in

the 51st minute and then ensured three points for India by capitalising on a diagonal ball from Rupinderpal in the 58th minute.

Mandeep's three goals kept India's challenge alive in the six-tournament, taking them to seven points from four matches.

The win gave India a chance of making the second successive final in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup after having finished runners-up behind Australia last year.

India opened the account through Rupinderpal, who converted the first penalty corner in the eighth minute with a rasping flick from the right side of the net.

Japan wasted their first penalty corner in the ninth minute as the push could not be stopped cleanly. Japan were down to 10 men when they got the equaliser a minute later.

The Indian defenders were reduced to the role of spectators as Japanese striker Murata flicked in from the goalmouth after picking a cross from Masaki Ohashi on the right. - PTI



Indian striker Mandeep Singh (L) celebrates after scoring against Japan during their match at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in Ipoh, Malaysia, on Wednesday.

Vikas, Shiva in semis, among 4 to qualify for World C'ships

TASHKENT, May 3: Top seed Vikas Krishnan (73kg) and fourth seed Shiva Thapa (60kg) were among the four Indian boxers who qualified for the World Championships and assured themselves of medals by advancing to the Asian Championships semifinals here today.

Sunit Sangwan (91kg) and Amit Phangal (49kg) were the other two Indian boxers to book medal slots in the prestigious continental event. While it was a third successive medal assured at the event for Shiva, Vikas secured a second successive for himself. Shiva had won a gold at 2013 edition and followed it up with a bronze in 2015.

Vikas, on the other hand, was the lone silver-medallist for India in the 2015 edition. Sumit gave India their first win of the day when he stunned third-seeded Chinese Fenghai Yu 4-1.

The former Asian Olympic Qualifiers' gold-medallist put his long reach to effective use against an opponent, who was thrown off-balance every time he tried to attack. Sumit will now face second seed Ja-

khon Qurbanov of Tajikistan in the semifinals on Friday after a rest day tomorrow. Qurbanov outpunched Pakistan's Mehmood Khan in his quarterfinal bout.

In the afternoon session, Amit Phangal (49kg) gave India a good start by getting the better of fourth seed Cornelis Kwangu Langi of Indonesia 4-1. Langi, a South East Asian Games gold-medallist, found it tough to keep pace with the Indian. Amit is up for a tough one in the semifinals, where he will square off against Uzbekistan's Olympic gold-medallist Hasanboy Dusmatov. Shiva, meanwhile, sailed past Chinese Taipei's Chu-En Lai in his quarterfinal bout.

Shiva was clearly the superior of the two boxers in footwork and accuracy. The Indian, who is also a World Championships bronze-medallist, left Lai befuddled with his counter-attacking approach.

Vikas was up against Indonesia's Brama Hendra Betabuan. Though Betabuan was quite a match for Vikas in aggression, the Indian dominated by not just defending well but also by using his right hook to good effect. - PTI

Delhi eye win against Gujarat to keep play-off hopes alive

NEW DELHI, May 3: Their losing streak finally over, an inconsistent Delhi Daredevils would look to continue the new-found momentum against a struggling Gujarat Lions here tomorrow and keep their slim IPL playoff hopes alive.

As has been the case in the past editions, it has not been a campaign for Rahul Dravid's men in the tournament so far.

They slumped to a five-match losing streak to languish at the bottom half of the table before managing to pull off a win last night against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

The win not only lifted Daredevils to sixth position in the standings but also gave them a ray of hope to qualify for the play-offs, though for that to happen, they cannot afford to flounder even from here on.

Mathematically, Daredevils are in the fray but they will have to win all their remaining matches and hope for favourable results from other games.

Daredevils' much-criticised batting came to the team's rescue against Hyderabad yesterday after a relatively poor bowling attack came a cropper. Daredevils' fine batting helped them stun the defending champions

with five balls to spare.

Each and every Delhi batsman, who got a chance, contributed in the win.

Openers Karun Nair (39) and Sanju Samson (24), Rishabh Pant (34), Shreyas Iyer (33), Corey Anderson (41 not out) and Chris Morris (15 not out) all pitched in to save the day and Daredevils would be hoping for a repeat show tomorrow. But it is Daredevils' bowling which would be a cause of concern for Dravid.

In the absence of an injured Zaheer Khan, Delhi's pace attack looked listless with the likes of Kagiso Rabada, Morris and Mohammad Shami going for runs.

If not for the spin duo of Amit Mishra and Jayant Yadav, who managed to put brakes on the scoring, Sunrisers would have piled up an above 200-run score.

Gujarat Lions, on the other hand, are all but out of the race as they are struggling at the second last position in the eight-team tournament with just six points from 10 games.

Having finished an impressive third in their inaugural season last year, it turned out to be a disappointing campaign for the Lions in 2017. Only a miracle from here on might see them qualify for the knock-out stages. - PTI

Gujarat will have to lift itself

The Delhi team have given themselves a chance to scrape

through to the play-offs by scraping a fine win over the defending champions Hyderabad. It was a team effort in the real sense of the term just about everybody contributed. The bowlers did their job despite some pretty ordinary fielding, then the batsmen stepped up in the middle order quickly and keeping the asking rate under control.

Rahul Dravid the mentor would want the youngsters to finish the game off by carrying on with the bat rather than just get attractive cameos. The experienced Corey Anderson ensured along with Chris Morris that the target was reached but the youngsters got a touch carried away and lost their wickets at the wrong time. Sanju Samson, Rishabh Pant, Shreyas Iyer and Karun Nair are all wonderful talents but they must learn to finish games off and not leave it to the others.



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Mohammed Shami has been out of cricket for a while with a knee injury and it was good to see him bowl at full tilt. The 30-year-old, who has been a key member of the Indian team, showed that he is ready to back up his Indian wickets showed that he is ready to back up his Indian wickets. It has been heartening to see many Indian bowlers now bowling the yorker well. It's not an easy ball to bowl and in the T20 format the slightest mistake means that the ball will hit out of the park but when bowled accurately it's a wicket dot ball. What is even more encouraging is that it's the younger newer breed of Indian quicks who are bowling the yorker and bowling a wicket.

The Gujarat team will have to lift itself after the demoralising loss in the super over to Mumbai. Yet they had done splendidly to pull the game back and take it to the Super Over. They had a great chance to win the game but the Gujarat boys are truly like lions when on the field and it was their fielding led by Ravindra Jadeja and Suresh Raina more than anything that got them into the Super Over.

They will have to bat a lot better than they have so far to give themselves a chance. With Zaheer Khan likely to come back to the Delhi team it may not be easy but Suresh Raina knows that unless his boys lift themselves and play like lions they may have to exit the tournament like lambs. - PMG

Not stopping run flow was a factor in defeat: Yuvraj

NEW DELHI, May 3: Senior batsman Yuvraj Singh says leaking too many runs in the initial overs and absence of paceman Ashish Nehra proved crucial in Sunrisers Hyderabad's defeat against Delhi Daredevils in their last IPL match.

Daredevils' batsmen fired in the first half to chase down a challenging 185-run target with five balls to spare. They kept losing wickets but the required run rate was always under control thanks to brisk scoring by young batsmen of the home team.

"I think we gave a lot of runs in the first six overs. The dropped catch of Karun Nair was crucial. If we could have taken early wickets, would have been key. It wasn't a great start by our bowlers and we did not pick wickets in the middle. All of their guys got 30-40 runs," Yuvraj said.

"We have been relying a lot on Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Rashid Khan, when Ashish Nehra is fully fit, it will make our bowling line up a lot more stronger. Mohammed Siraj is a young guy while it has been a huge learning curve for Sudhir and Kaul. Both have been bowling well," he said. The left-hander had earlier helped his side raise up a big total with his 70-run knock.

It was important for me to get some runs. In the last three or four overs, I did not get enough time in the middle. When we were batting in the first innings, it was a bit tough as the ball was gripping. So, I thought of playing till the last and went for the big shots after the 16th over," Yuvraj said.

"I was lucky. I got dropped. I could cash in on it in the later overs," said Yuvraj, whose catch was grassed by Sanju Samson when he was on.

Meanwhile, Daredevils spinner Amit Mishra was relieved that his side is still in contention for the play-offs.

"We are very positive from now, we will go step by step. We have a very good team and we clicked today. We did not do bad and bowling by us are still struggling with our fielding. It is not up to the mark," the leg-spinner said.

"Against Punjab, our leg-spin clicked. Our bowling is good,

Ramkumar wins, Yuki goes down fighting

NEW DELHI, May 3: Young Indian Davis Cupper Ramkumar Ramanathan advanced to the second round of the Savannah Challenger but Yuki Bhambri, who has returned to circuit after a month, went down fighting in the Gimcheon event in Korea.

Unseeded Ramkumar battled past local wild card Ryan Shane 6-4, 7-5 in the opening round of the USD 50,000 clay court event in the US.

Ramkumar had ended runner-up at the Tallahassee Challenger last week. It was the first ever Challenger final for the 22-year-old and as a result he jumped 47 places to 217 in the ATP singles rankings.

Yuki, who missed the Uzbekistan tie in Bengaluru due to a knee issue, pushed the second round Indian and world number 93 Konstantin Kravchuk 2-6, 6-1, 3-6 in the second round that lasted close to two hours. Yuki played this tournament under Protected Ranking (PR). - PTI

Harmeet touches career-high 95, 3 Indians in top-100

NEW DELHI, May 3: Harmeet Desai has joined his India teammates, Sharath Kamal and Somayajit Ghosh, by breaking the top-100 barrier to touch a career high 95 in the latest table tennis world rankings.

Incidentally, this is the first time ever that three Indians figure in top-100 of ITTF rankings.

With his sterling show at the Wuxi Asian Championships, both in team events as well as in singles, Harmeet moved five places ahead of him in the men's ranking list.

Sharath is still the top-ranked Indian at No. 54 while Ghosh, despite his title-winning performance at the Chile Open on Sunday, has made a small jump ahead, moving to 83 from 84.

But the worst sufferer is Manika Batra who, from World No. 93, has been pushed to No. 103. The other women paddlers have done nothing worthwhile to move up the ladder.

In Youth Boys, Arjun Ghosh has moved several places to break the 100-mark barrier as he is ranked 98.

Manav Thakur, Abhishek Yadav, Ronit Banja, Anirban Ghosh, Siddesh Pande, Jeet Chandra, Birdie Boro and Manush Shah have gained in the rankings but none matching the performance of Arjun Ghosh. - PTI





Why? What?

Who were the Grimm Brothers?

The Grimm Brothers were two 19th-century German scholars and brothers, who were leaders in the study of philology and folklore. Their names were Jacob Ludwig Karl Grimm (1785-1863) and Wilhelm Carl Grimm (1786-1859). Both brothers were born in Hanau, Germany on January 4, 1785, and Wilhelm on February 24, 1786. Jacob was educated at the University of Marburg. Jacob became a professor of history and literature at the University of Kassel in 1808, while Wilhelm became a professor of history and literature at the University of Göttingen in 1812, where Wilhelm became a student of Friedrich Wilhelm IV of Prussia. In 1841, at the invitation of Frederick William IV of Prussia, they settled in Berlin, where they remained for the rest of their lives as teachers at the University. Wilhelm died on December 16, 1859. Jacob died on September 20, 1863.



My viewpoint

“What is the future of Kaziranga?

Barni Sandhya, Class-VII, Vidyamandir, Barakpur, Guwahati.

The Kaziranga National Park is known as the “Hornbill Capital of the World”. Unfortunately, the park has been a target of several natural and man-made calamities in recent decades. Floods, which are common in the river Brahmaputra, have led to a significant loss of animal life. Encroachments by people have led to habitat loss due to sinking forest areas and loss of habitat. Among the main threat to the park are the poachers. The Kaziranga National Park, the pride of Assam, is facing a severe crisis due to man-made and natural calamities. Poaching, overgrazing, commercializing, encroachment by the people along the periphery of the Park, etc., can snuff away Kaziranga’s natural beauty and its future. The world famous one-horned rhino, which accounts for about 85 per cent of the world's famous one-horned rhino, is being killed ruthlessly.

Bonat Haz, Sedguate Primary School, Class-VIII, Manas Public School, Guwahati.

The future of Kaziranga depends on the protection of Assam and India, along with the forest officials of Kaziranga. We must first protect the habitat of the one-horned rhino. The forest personnel must be provided with sophisticated weapons, along with strict policies against poaching. The courtesies of the Park must be guarded by the army, and check-posts must be manned. The highland (high areas) must be raised at different places of the Kaziranga National Park to protect the animals during floods.

Mousin Neesa, Class-VII, Holy Child School, Guwahati.

Kaziranga is one of the world's famous heritage sites located in Assam. It is the pride of Assam. Many tourists visit Kaziranga every year for its beauty. The one-horned rhino is one of the main attractions that make it so famous. Every year, when the forest officials go to the area for its valuable wood, different kinds of animals, birds, etc. nowadays, we can't find such beautiful scenes in Kaziranga. In the past, people are continuously cutting down the trees to obtain wood. Along with that, the one-horned rhino is being hunted for its valuable horn. They are in the path of extinction.

The Assam Tribune PLANET YOUNG

GUWAHATI, THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2017



The second coming

— Owen Rumon Garg, Class-X
Swasagar Govt. H.S. and M.P. School, Swasagar

The rest of the body was swollen and blackened.

The body was taken to the crematorium. It was put on the pyre. Silence came down on all of us. Everybody said Ramesh has come back to the mode of death. He always used to go to the fourth day, instead of the eleventh. Ramesh's photograph was garlanded and kept at a centre table. Everybody was busy with the rituals. All of us suddenly heard a loud shout from the midst, crying "Ma! Paap!" He was Ramesh! Everybody stood in horror and looked at him. If they were looking at a ghost. How could dead people talk? Ramesh was still shouting with his mouth open. Uncle grabbed him and hugged him, crying. After some time, Ramesh told us everything. He slipped off a big boulder while taking a walk and fell into the water. He had been swimming. The last thing he remembered was that he had gulped down a lot of cold, dirty water. When he regained consciousness, he found himself lying on the sandbank of the river. He was half-naked and shivering. They were wiping his mouth and eyes with a wet towel. They told him that they were residents of the charukandi of the Brahmaputra. They lifted him and took him to their tent, offered him a bowl of hot milk; as their tent, offered him

They asked him about his family and whereabouts. He told them that he had lost his wife and dropped him off at the bus stop on the Guwahati road. The kind man waited till the bus took him back to Guwahati.

When Ramesh now turned into a happy reunion ceremony. All the guests had a hearty meal and stayed on till the evening. But, I kept on thinking one thing – who was the person whose body we had cremated?

I, ME, MYSELF

Mrs. India Homemakers
2017, Mrs. North Asia
Pacific, Indian badminton
player Krish Das shares her
thoughts



The persons who have influenced me the most:
My parents. I look up to them and will always be grateful for bringing me into this beautiful world and making me who I am today.

The biggest turning point of my life:
The turning point, I would say, was when I gave birth to my son – Rayhan. That moment, I took rebirth, as a mother. That moment changed my life and my whole outlook towards life.

The happiest moment in my life:
I have had many moments which I can quote as happy, but the most cherished one was when I represented Team India in badminton for the first time in life. I still get butterflies thinking about it.

The changes that I would like to see in the society:
I would definitely like to see the growth of social culture and healthy mentality among the youth, so that we can get rid of the social taboos around us.

My message for today's youth:
No one can make you feel inferior without your consent. So, always practise positive thinking and keep dreaming. Because when we dream, we work hard towards achieving it.



Winners All



CONTRIBUTOR
OF THE WEEK
Owen Rumon Garg,
Swasagar



POEM
OF THE WEEK
Milmon Pegu,
Dhemaji



SKETCH
OF THE WEEK
Bhargavi Kaundinya,
Guwahati



Little Hearts
I am 17 and preparing hard for my entrance exams. But every night some boys in the mess upstairs play loud music and disturb the peace.

- Apurva

Dear Aparupa,
Get in touch with the office bearers at the school and let them give you a written complaint and then see if they warn these boys. They are only throwing away their future, while you are still young. Best of luck!

Dear Ishani Aunty,
I recently lost a pendant given to me by a dear friend of mine. This depresses me a lot. What can I do?

Dear Sunita,
We lose or damage most of our school belongings. This means we must leave them carefully. If they are lost, there will be a pang of pain, but it will pass. Your friendship with your friend is more important than the book, and that is what matters.

Dear Ishani Aunty,
Recently, a classmate and her parents came to our school. Pray tell, I have seen her everywhere. I am simply not that kind of boy. Please help.

- Krishanu

If you are innocent, there is nothing to worry. Just continue to stay away from this girl. Well, I know why she is doing this, but we cannot do much. Best of luck!

JUNIOR PUZZLERS

1) Was the artist Picasso's first name Toulouse, Pablo or Vicente?



THIS WEEK'S WINNER **PicSpeak** **NEXT WEEK'S PICTURE**

Don't wake me up, I dream of heaven

Purvam Bararia,
Faculty H.S. School, Guwahati.

■ Please collect your certificates from our office.
Send your entries to planet.young@assamtribune.com

Mini M@ths

Calculate the clues and fill in the grids with the answers.

CROSS **DOWN**

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55
56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65
66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75
76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85
86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95
96	97	98	99	100

SOLUTIONS

ANSWERS: 1) Pablo (2) Krypton (3) Schubert

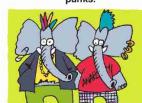
2) On which planet was Superman born: Krypton, Klingon or Magrathea?



3) Did Mozart, Bach or Schubert write *The Unfinished Symphony*?



DID YOU KNOW
Although baby elephants are often called calves, they are properly referred to as punks.



by Jake Martin

JP58

Rat is the common name for any large member of the family of rodents, with dull-coloured, coarse fur, long tails, large ears and small eyes. Rats have extremely powerful teeth, with which they often gnaw through wooden planks to get at stored food, and their teeth have been known to bite holes in lead pipes. They are usually nocturnal and live in human habitations, forests, deserts and on seashores. They are extremely prolific, breeding one to 13 times a year and producing one to 22 young in a litter. Most species of rats are herbivorous, but some are also omnivorous.

In Hindu mythology, rats are a symbol of destruction, timidity, nervousness, ignorance, fear and confusion. They can overcome obstacles in their search for food and remain underground in tunnels and crevices. In

ancient India, rats were

host to elephants, rats posed a major threat to crops, vegetables and orchards. It is no wonder that Hindus have a long tradition of worshipping them both anthropomorphic form of elephant as Ganesha, and the rat as the also known as Krancha as His vehicle.

Both are propitiated by farmers to save them from their enemies, such as pests, locusts, diseases, floods, storms and gales. With Ganesha, rats enjoy a lot of freedom. People who do not like to kill them or capture them unless they pose an extreme threat to them.

During British rule in India, many Indians resisted the idea of killing rats even when they were causing a lot of damage to their crops of tuberous plants.

There are no temples specifically built for rats, however, the Karm

Ma Temple in Rajgoshan is famous for its tradition of revering the rats. Rats roam freely in the temple premises and receive offerings of food from the devotees who visit the temple. It is believed that rats the temple have an affinity with the hereditary priests and servants of the temple and may be reborn in their families.

India has some traditional tribes such as the Chenchus in the South, who specialize in hunting rats from ages old and help the local farmers. They also consume its meat, as a reward for their hunting skills.

(E-mail: crs4_pch@yahoo.co.in)

Rats



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What's the BUZZ?

YouTube Kids now on TV

George YouTube Kids is now compatible with several LG, Samsung, and Sony Smart TVs in 26 countries across the world. Since the launch of YouTube Kids on mobile devices, there has been over 30 billion views until now and has over eight million weekly active viewers.

As the new development, children will be able to access several fun science experiments, songs and their favourite creator's videos on all platforms (TVs, mobile and tablets).

Rocket Science 101, a new app

Rocket Science 101 is an interactive NASA iPad app that lets children build and launch virtual space missions using rockets used by NASA and its commercial partners. The app is designed to be educational yet fun. Rather than explaining about rocket propulsion and design (which might be a bit advanced for most children intended seven to 11 age group), it lets the children choose and assemble a virtual spacecraft and launch it into space.

It isn't really a course on rocket science, but it doesn't teach how rockets work, although it provides brief descriptions of their components. Perhaps bettering the young audience for which it is intended, it's more of an interactive playground that lets children assemble spacecraft from virtual parts and launch them into orbit.

Kids' Stuff BRAIN TEASERS

AMAZING WATER

Can you help this man lost in the desert, find water?

Water can be found everywhere below the earth's surface. A spring occurs when water finds a natural opening in the ground.

Can you help this man lost in the desert, find water?

MIRROR IMAGE

The drawing on the right is the mirror image of the one on the left, except for one thing. Can you find it?

Copyright © Family Fun Inc.

AMAZING WATER MIRROR IMAGE

IMAGE HIBBOP

AMAZING WATER MIRROR IMAGE HIBBOP

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word

1	Brace a) Tighten b) Hold your breath c) Close your eyes d) Prepare for danger	4	Sequester a) To conceal b) Enclose c) Set apart d) Investigate
2	Congestion a) Total b) Accumulation c) Congested congestion d) Bustle	5	Deglove a) To lose heart b) Fright c) Pull apart d) Regret
3	Laconic a) Concise b) Shy c) Sad d) Harsh	6	Refugee a) A (U) refugee b) A (U) person who has been forced to leave their home c) A (U) person who has been forced to leave their home d) Refugees

Solve this free form crossword, where the words are represented by pictures.

**Animal Ark****BOOK NOOK****Bravo! Poems About Amazing Hispanics**

In Australia, Rashed Lopez's "Bravo! Poems About Amazing Hispanics" have the large-scale and graphic discipline of a biography. The poet and artist Erol Ergec manages to compress the sweep of a biography into a single poem about each life, from childhood on. Some are from the Americas, others from Spain and Roberto Clemente. All food challenges, many get-wrenching, some like the Cuban who starved in childhood — and made lasting contributions.

Quiz

—Shreenu Khan, Dibrul Huda Islamic University.

Answers
1. Sri Chaitanya
2. Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra
3. Barpeta and Majuli
4. Assam

I had got an opportunity to visit Japan – Land of the Rising Sun, in the month of February. A delegation of seven students and four workshop youth, along with one supervisor from India, was sent to Japan on the invitation by the Government of Japan, under the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for students and youth exchange programme. I was, indeed, very fortunate to be one of the members of the Indian team.

On our arrival, we were extended a warm welcome by two Japanese coordinators. On the same day, we were taken to the National Museum of Science and Technology. There, we had the opportunity to see robots, androids, augmented reality illusion and much more. It was an amazing experience to learn about how Japan does it so well.

During the programme, the participants were given exposure to Japan's cutting edge technologies, food and creative industries. Japanese culture and local people. As the programme was on 'Energy', we were taken to the Shin-Nagata Clean Energy Center at Nagaoka, the first of its kind.

We also visited the Mirai Solar En-

Guwahati, Thursday,

May 4, 2017

Wonders of Nippon

—Abhishek Saharia, Class Xth, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Dibrul

ergy Study at Kameigawa, which spreads over a huge area of about 3,80,000 square metres, and we were impressed to observe how Japan is efficiently managing energy needs while protecting nature. Japan also has its Disaster Management Authority, which made of setting up such facilities in the city, in collaboration with Japan.

On February 5, we went to Kamogawa city, where we were welcomed by the officials of the city. There, we got to taste two special and delicious varieties of rice. We also visited the Seaworld at Kamogawa, where we saw a dolphin and a killer whale show.

Honestly speaking, as part of the programme and so the visiting students were made to stay for two days with a

Japanese family at Kamogawa. Mine was a Takada family, who treated us as their own family members. Their stay was one of the most valued and fascinating programmes, where we could find a lot about traditional Japanese culture, food, way of living etc.

We experienced a wonderful journey from Guwahati to Tokyo by bus through the Silk Route, a land-water route net in the Pacific Ocean.

When it comes to food, the Japanese are among the most creative and innovative. Their cuisine has a large variety of dishes and regional specialties. A popular dish – Sushi, is raw fish served on rice, seasoned lightly with soy sauce and vinegar. In terms of flavours and textures, But, we could hardly consume it. Egg noodles in a salty broth is Japan's favourite late-night

At the end of the programme, I made a PowerPoint presentation for the officials of the SAARC countries and the officials of the Japan Ministry on behalf of our group, consisting of India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan.

After the successful completion of the programme, we boarded our return flight, on February 14. I was impressed by the cleanliness, punctuality and the hard-working culture of the Japanese people.

IDIOM OF THE WEEK**Donkey's years**

Donkey's years indicate a very long time. It is the British term for 'a very long time' donkey's years or donkey's age. Donkey's years or 'donkey's years of course – what would ears have to do with it?' It turns out that it was right.

Donkey's years is now the more commonly used term when referring a long time. The term 'ear' has almost been used little in recent years.

The reason for giving donkey's ears to donkey's years was no doubt aided by the belief that donkeys live a long time. There's some truth in that. Laddie, a donkey who has lived up to his name for many years, still has been plying his trade on Blackpool Pleasure Beach was until his death at age 62, a contender for the 'oldest living donkey' title.

With love, as always,

Kakashi

Wings to soar

Dear Bhaity, Bhonti,

I remember somebody once said,

"Intelligence without ambition is a bird without wings." How apt that is, for it is ambition that makes us fly, to soar in the limitless heights of endeavour. I have known many young people who take pride in their intelligence but do not couple it with ambition. Needless to say, they remain where they are, for they have no wings.

With love, as always,

SKETCH OF THE WEEK
Bhargavi Kaundinya, Class-VI,
Shrimanta Shankar Academy, Guwahati.

**Tour the world**

Stars are twinkling,
Wind is blowing,
Clouds are moving,
And I am dreaming.
These things are real,
The more I want to visit,
Are more than double.
And sometimes, for this,
I get up at night.
My wings are flapping,
And it's beautiful because I am flying.
I am flying, I am flying, So,
But still, I easily get shy.
I am breathing,
Unbreathable one would kill me.
I am wondering about things,
But still, I haven't found any king.
I am flying,
I am the king!
The more I turn the pages of my life,
The more I travel the world.
— Dhruvi Gogoi,
Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Dibrugarh.

Prachurya Hazarika,
St. Joseph's Convent School, Tezpur

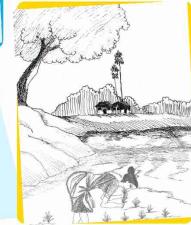
POEM OF THE WEEK
— Migmom Pegu, Class-IV,
Mother's Pride School, Dhemaji.

Stop, stop

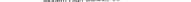
Say stop!
Don't distract us.
If you save us,
We save you Mother Earth!
Rise like people,
To plant more and more of us, trees.
We salute the Forest Man of India!
May our places of Jadoh Pajerings
Be born,
To make this earth
A wonderful place to live in.

Ritobroto Rakshit, Class-IX,
Shrimanta Shankar Academy, GuwahatiSamiba Afreen Ahmed, Class-III,
Holy Child English Academy, HowrahHimakshi Borah, Class-III,
Maria's Public School, GuwahatiPrithvi Gupta, Class-V,
Don Bosco School, Guwahati**Season of joy**

The season of Spring,
When the birds spread their beautiful wings.
The earth is covered with vibrant green;
It is a season when everyone's bright face
Has a smile.
The season of Spring,
Now the birds sing,
It is a season of forms and hall,
And the sailor sails.
The season of Spring,
When the leaves go green,
It is a season of joy!
— Rangana Saha, Class-VII,
Shrimanta Shankar Academy, Guwahati.

Shabda Sameran Borah, Class-IV,
Holy Name School, SivasagarHimmoyukh Burhagohain, Class-V,
Mother's Pride School, Dhemaji**Chess**

My name is Loff,
I am good at chess.
My friend is Joff.
He never plays chess.
Always moves left and right,
During a game of chess.
For he is never
Good at chess.
— Atharva Gogoi, Class-VI,
Don Bosco H.S. School, Dibrugarh.

Sheena Sinha, Class-VI,
Modern High School, Guwahati**Leadership**

A soon as in the last seng, there was a complete silence in the assembly hall. Everyone was eager to have a look at the new leader, as they were capable of the post. With a file in hand, the Principal came up to the stage and handed his file to Mimi. Mimi's heart began beating faster. Mimi prayed hard to the Almighty, it was her dream to be the leader of the school. She participated in every awareness programme, cultural event, etc. She always knew what

announced. Mimi was taken aback; tears rolled down her cheeks. It was she who was one of her best mates. Mimi was totally heartbroken. On her way home, she felt as if she had lost her way. She ate what she had prepared for tomorrow's plan. She thought about all that she had done. She reached home, she told everything to her mother. "Mimi, what is the population of our country?" asked her mother. "Must be around 1.26 billion, Ma,"

replied Mimi. "Then tell me, Mimi, what will happen if the entire population of our country wants to become a leader? To run a country, a leader is not sufficient. We need many government servants play an important role, too. Your friend needs your support to become a leader. If she is capable, then one day, you will achieve what you want. But for now, you should help her. You can do it whole year. In this way, you will be the real hero. So, cheer up!" Mimi was shocked. Her mother tried to explain and thought, "This is just the beginning. I have a long way

— Archita Dutta, Class-X,
St. Joseph's High School, Morigaon

Bhumika Devi, Class-Pre Primary,
Jagabhumi Adhara Jalsa Bidyalaya, NalbariPrakriti Protim Samra, Class-III,
Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Sipahijala, GuwahatiShraddha Mandal, Class-IV,
Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Panighat