

NEWS CAPSULE

5 poachers held with tiger skin

BARPEETA, July 14: Five suspected poachers were arrested today and a tiger skin was seized by forest officials near the Manas National Park. Those arrested are Sunil Bodo, Sanjiv Baruah, Ranjan Dasmari, Badu Bodo and Bonaru Bodo. — PTI

2 arrested

GUWAHATI, July 14: Chief Minister's Vigilance Cell today arrested government accountant Apar Bhattacharjee and contractor Prabhat Dutta in connection with a corruption case of siphoning of government funds. — Staff Reporter

Ruling on NEET

NEW DELHI, July 14: The Supreme Court today refused to "nullify" the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2017 exam, saying it would affect over six lakh candidates who have passed the test to join medical and dental courses. — PTI

Mallya case

NEW DELHI, July 14: The Supreme Court today told the government that it would proceed against beleaguered businessman Vijay Mallya, who has been held guilty of contempt, only when he is produced before it. — PTI

Mishap claims 2

TEZPUR, July 14: Two persons were killed when an army vehicle knocked down a two-wheeler they were riding on NH-15 at Dekargaon this afternoon. The deceased are Chandan Saikia and Baha Patangia of Bamparpatah near here. — Correspondent

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



Governor Banwarilal Purohit talking to flood-affected people at a village in Lakhimpur district on Friday. — UB Photos

Flood situation remains grim

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 14: The overall flood situation in Assam remains grim and the death toll in the current wave of floods has gone up to 52, while the number of people affected has gone up to 14,97 lakh.

The official flood bulletin released by the Assam State Disaster Management Au-

thority this evening said that three more persons lost their lives in the districts of Dhemaji, Dhubri and Nagaon, taking the death toll to 52.

Death toll 52

The bulletin said that so far 2240 villages of 75 revenue circles of 25 districts of the State have been affected by the fury of floods and the total crop area affected is over 1,86,998

hectares. According to official records, 217 houses have been fully damaged, while, more than 14,000 houses have been partially damaged. More than

Dhubri, while other rivers including Dosing, Dhanguri and Kushiya are also flowing above the danger level at different points. The Kaziranga National Park is also still reeling under the fury of floods.

The bulletin, quoting the DFO of KNP, said around 8 per cent of the total area is still under floodwaters. Floods also affected at least 111 anti-poaching camps inside the Park so far.

The Brahmaputra is still flowing above the danger mark in five places — Neamatiaghata, Tezpur, Guwahati, Goalpara

Rly's offers to help flood-hit in State

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, July 14: The Railways has decided to come to the rescue of the beleaguered Assam government expressing its willingness to run extra trains, transport foodgrains and supply drinking water in the flood-affected areas of the State.

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu later spoke to Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal over telephone.

Briefing newsmen, Minister of State for Railway Rajen Gohain said the meeting, attended by the Railway Board members and the directors general of Railway Protection Force and Health Services, evaluated the situation and decided to wait for the states to make requests for assistance.

Sonowal and Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu conveyed that they would consult and inform the Railways about their requirements, Gohain said. "The Railways is ready to supply if they ask for foodgrains," he added.

While being ready to extend all assistance, including running extra trains, transporting foodgrains and supply water, the Railways specifically offered to supply Rail Neer

(See page 4)

SC orders CBI probe into Manipur killings

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, July 14: In a landmark judgement, the Supreme Court today directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to constitute a team to probe into the Manipur encounter killings.

The order is specific to those cases in which judicial inquiries were ordered by Gauhati and Manipur high courts.

The judgement passed by Justice Madan B Lokur and Justice Deepak Gupta was in response to a petition filed by the Extra Judicial Execution Victims Families Association, a registered trust having as its members the wives and mothers of persons whom they claim have been extrajudicially executed by the Manipur Police and the secu-

rity forces, mainly the Assam Rifles and the Army. The petitioner has alleged 1,528 extra-judicial killings by the Army and other security forces in Manipur.

The bench also directed the agency to submit a status report on the same by January next year.

The petitioner also mentioned that members of the armed forces had escaped

Militancy threat Army plan to identify vulnerable areas in State

R DUTTA CHOWDHURY

NEW DELHI, July 14: Though militancy is on the wane in Assam, there is need for identifying the areas where insurgency can erupt again, while, the location of the Army deployment can also be reviewed considering the fact that some areas of the State have become peaceful. This is the view of the top Army officials.

Talking to *The Assam Tribune*, top Army sources here pointed out that the people by and large are fed up with militancy, which is a positive development and most parts of Assam became peaceful. Considering the improvement of the overall situation, the deployment pattern of the Army can be reviewed as there is no need for Army deployment in some parts of the State, while, there is need for consolidating the position in certain areas where the militants can regroup.

Sources pointed out that there is need for identifying the areas where militancy can erupt again or new militant outfits can crop up so that adequate precautionary measures can be taken to prevent such developments. With the Government of Bangladesh launching a major crackdown against the extremist outfit, the possibility of some members of such groups crossing over to India also cannot be ruled out and the security forces will have to take adequate precautionary measures to deal with the situation, sources admitted.

Army sources admitted that despite best efforts of the forces on the ground, militant groups having bases in Myanmar (See page 4)

Powerful explosive found in UP Assembly

LUCKNOW, July 14: In a major security breach, a powerful plastic explosive was found in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today informed the House, which unanimously recommended an NIA probe into it.

Uttar Pradesh Police went into action and registered an FIR against unknown persons after recovery of the explosive.

The FIR was lodged under various sections of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and IPC sections 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 121A (conspiracy to wage war).

As soon as the House (See page 4)

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Lalu in CBI courts

RANCHI, July 14: RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav today appeared before two special CBI courts for his alleged involvement in various fodder scam cases. Yadav appeared before the special CBI judge in a case for alleged fraudulent withdrawal of funds from the Chhatpati Treasury. He also appeared in another case pertaining to alleged fraudulent withdrawal of funds from the Deoghar Treasury. - PTI



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Dhinakaran conspired to bribe EC officials: Delhi Police

NEW DELHI, July 14: AI-ADMK (Amma) faction leader TP Dhinakaran and an alleged middleman conspired to bribe Election Commission (EC) officials to get the 'two leaves' symbol for his party, the Delhi Police told a court here.

The police filed a charge sheet in the court to this effect and said it would file a supplementary charge sheet against Dhinakaran after completing the probe against him and three other accused. In its 701-page final report, the police have claimed that Dhinakaran recovered from alleged middlemen Sankar and Chandrashekhar who sent by

Dhinakaran through unaccounted channels with the help of other accused persons.

The charge sheet, filed only after the court concerned on July 17 and issued a production warrant for Chandrashekhar, said there was sufficient evidence on record to prosecute him. It named 36 witnesses.

The police told the court that if a supplementary final report would be filed later against the other accused - Dhinakaran, his close aide TP Mallikarjuna, suo motu hawala operators Nathu Singh and Lalit Kumar - who are out on bail.

The charge sheet was filed by the Crime Branch of Delhi Police before link Special Judge Manoj Jain, who listed the matter before the court concerned on July 17 and issued a production warrant for Chandrashekhar.

He was also charged with alleged offence of taking gratification by illegal means to influence public servant under the Prevention of Corruption Act. If convicted, the offences carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

The police alleged in the charge sheet that all the accused persons and witnesses, recovery of a compact disc and its analysis, it was found that Chandrashekhar and Dhinakaran were discussing the matter regarding the 'two leaves' poll symbol pending before the Election

Commission of India (EC). "These facts clearly show that a criminal conspiracy was hatched by Chandrashekhar and Dhinakaran and other accused persons got associated to execute the plan to bribe officials of the EC in order to get a favourable order in the matter pending adjudication regarding the 'two leaves' symbol," the report claimed.

It said the forensic science laboratory results about the CD containing the conversation of Chandrashekhar and Dhinakaran and the contents of seized mobile phones, were recorded.

The report said that investigation about the alleged involvement of EC officials, recovered cars and the source and route of illegal channels of financial transactions was still in progress.

The police said the accused persons are responsible for diminishing the efforts of the Government to curb the black money. A case has been registered by the Enforcement Directorate in this matter, it said.

Chandrashekhar was arrested for allegedly taking money from Dhinakaran to bribe EC officials to get the AIADMK's 'two leaves' symbol for the Sankalpa faction. - PTI

SIT set up to probe Amarnath attack

he added.

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The police blamed the Lashkar-e-Taiba for the deadly attack, but the outfit denied any involvement. - PTI

"A six-member special investigation team has been constituted to probe the attack on Amarnath pilgrims at Batengoo in Anantnag on Monday." Inspector General of Police (Kashmir Zone) Muneeb Ahmad Khan told PTI.

The SIT, headed by the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of South Kashmir will have Senior Superintendent of Police (Anantnag) Altaf Ahmad Khan and a deputy superintendent of police (DSP) as members, Khan said.

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The police blamed the Lashkar-e-Taiba for the deadly attack, but the

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT

ACHIEVEMENT



Mitali Devi, Asstt. Prof. of English, Behali Degree College, Biswanath has been awarded the Ph. D. Degree by Gauhati University for her thesis entitled "The Novels of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya: A Comparative Study" under the guidance of Dr. Tarance Dekar, Prof & Head Deptt. of Assamese, Gauhati University. She is the daughter of Bimala Chakrabarty and Runu Chakrabarty of Arshika, Nalbari and wife of Partha Pratim Saikia, Asstt. Prof of English, Kalabari College, Golaghat. Achieve/P/PA129/1

COUNSELLING

New project to earn good income. Suitable for unemployed/housewife/referred. SMS your name. 9864183966. Busi/P/PA25267

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Learn Vocal, Keyboard, Flute, Guitar, Tabla by professional Teacher. Sangyatam, Sipukuri Ph: 9435909193. Music/P/PA13953/2

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Best deal! CCTV HD Camera @ 499/- for free installation & 2 years warranty. Neophonic. 9864366664. 78961-18134. CC TV/P/PA12376/4

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BEAUTICIAN

I have changed my name from Anisha Boruah to Anwesa Boruah by an Affidavit shown before Notary Guwahati, Kamrup (Met) on 22 June, 2017. PN/P/1398/1/

YOGA

Join Yoga for Physical Health & Fitness Classes by experienced Trainers. R. E. Yoga Centre, Zoo Road. 8253823869. Yoga/P/PA253/01

DANCE & AEROBICS

Dance classes for children & age (Indian & Western styles). Also Aerobics (Zumba style) for Male & Female for fitness & weight loss. RDA, Zoo Road. 8253823869. D&A/P/PA253/1

MEDICAL

Buy running Dental Setup, earn 1.5 L monthly, dentist relocating abroad. 9435704090, 8638140006. Medical/P/PA1397/3

ARTS & CRAFTS

Art classes & Crafts for children of any age. (preparatory & Diploma courses). R.E. Institute, Zoo Road. 8253823869. Art & Craft/P/PA253/4

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Tata Indigo 2009 Diesel excellent engine, Insurance-June 2018. Tzpu registration 9435704090. M&S/P/PA1391/63

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Buy running Dental Chair, accessories, Voltage Stabilizer for shop etc. 9435704090, 8638140006. S&P/P/PA1397/1

GARMENTS

Export surplus Garments store closing. Ladies/Gents Garments at lower than cost price. Contact: 9706338878, 7662044274. Jeans: 400/- . - 300/- Tops: 150/- Shirt: 350/- Garments/P/A255/7

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Designers/Makers School, College, Corporate, Hospitality Uniforms, Computerized Embroidery, Logos - Aasmita 98640-95920. Uniform/P/PA050/30

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Aduhnik Packers & Movers, An ISO:9001:2008, Household goods, Cars, Home, India, Gauhati. 0361-2510232, 0964195237. Mobile: 09324261020. Email: ramesh.agarwal2010@yahoo.com P&M/P/PA050/180

Rhino Packers, Sixmile, M: 9864469464, Local shifting: M: 9401822253, (All India). Packing & Transportation, Household goods. P&M/P/PA050/30

CD/TN/1685/1

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA HPCL JAGIROAD (ASSAM)

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Sealed Tenders are invited from reputed & bonafide agencies for security & conservancy staff to be engaged in KV Jagiroad by 21.07.2017 4.00 pm hand by post.

(M Lal) Principal

CD/TN/1685/1

INTERNATIONAL



Spain's King Felipe and Queen Letizia being escorted during a visit to Westminster Abbey, central London. The royals continued their three-day State visit to Britain on Thursday. - UNI

China warns Botswana against Dalai Lama visit

BEIJING, July 14: China today warned Botswana against hosting Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama and facilitate a meeting with its President next month, saying the African nation should "respect" Beijing's core concerns.

The 82-year-old exiled Tibetan leader is due to make a public address at the three-day "Mind and Life Dialogue" conference in Gabon on August 19 and is set to meet Botswana President Ian Khama.

"The Dalai Lama is in political exile and long engaged in anti-China separatist activities and attempt to separate Xizang (Chinese name for Tibet) from China under the pretext of religion," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a media briefing here.

"China side firmly opposes the Dalai Lama engaging in anti-China separatist activities in any capacity or any name. China firmly opposes him keeping any contact with officials of any country," he said.

Nepal could review 'free visa, free ticket' provision: Deuba

KATHMANDU, July 14: Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba today hinted at the possibility of reviewing the provision of "free visa and free ticket" provided the political parties agree on it.

Inaugurating the 25th General Assembly of Nepal Association of Foreign Employment Agencies (NAFEA) here, he also expressed concern over the safety and well-being of Nepalese migrant workers, majority of whom are serving in Gulf countries in hazardous conditions.

Deuba said he would take initiatives for forging an agreement to address the demand for reconsideration on the "free visa, free ticket" provision put forth by foreign employment agencies.

Expressing concern over increasing incidents of death of Nepalese workers on foreign soil, he said that all sides including manpower agencies must be sensitive for ensuring economic and physical migrants workers.

Contribution of foreign employment to nation's economy is significant, he pointed out.

Minister for Labour and Employment Farruha Manandhar admitted that the government has failed to implement the provision of "free visa, free ticket" effectively.

National Human Rights Commission member Sudip Pathak expressed the view that foreign employment would be the main focus and agenda of the people in the next 10 years. - PTI

Army plan to ...

(Contd from page 1)
are still crossing over and admitted that the militants are using mostly Tirap and Changlang districts in Arunachal Pradesh and Mon district of Nagaland as transit routes and bases. Though a few successful operations have been launched by the Army and other forces in those areas, sources admitted that there have been some difficulties in operating in those areas and the success rate of the forces was not to the desired extent.

Sources pointed out that the thick jungles in Tirap and Changlang put the militants in an advantageous position and efforts are on to improve the intelligence gathering mechanism to deal with the problem. "It is difficult to launch successful operations in those areas without pinpointed intelligence inputs and we do not want the local people to be affected by the operations against militants. That is why, efforts are on to get an augmented intelligence gathering mechanism so that we get more success in the counter insurgency operations in those areas," sources added.

Sources further said that the process of identifying the tracks normally used by the ultras to move through the jungles in those areas has started and some such tracks have already been identified. "We expect that with improvement of the intelligence gathering mechanism and identification of the tracks used by the militants, the success rate of the operations will improve in the days to come and the forces will be able to prevent the militants from moving into Assam from Myanmar." Army sources asserted.

Powerful explosive ...

(Contd from page 1)
met this morning, Adityanath, who earlier chaired an emergency security meeting, informed that white powder was found wrapped in a paper close to the seat of the Leader of the Opposition Ram Govind Choudhury.

The explosive was found by the cleaning staff on July 12. The quantity of the explosive was 150 grams. According to experts, the chief minister said. After the powder was sent for FSL examination, it was found to be a dangerous plastic explosive PETN (Pentaerythritol tetranitrate), he said. - PTI

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2017

Bus mishap kills 10 in Indonesia

PROBOLINGGO, July 14: At least 10 people, including a foreigner and a child, died when a bus hit the back of truck today as it travelled from the resort island of Bali, police said.

The bus, carrying 34 people, was heading to the town of Malang in East Java in the early morning when it hit the back of a fertilizer truck, killing several of the sleeping passengers.

"Ten people died on impact and nine others were injured," local police chief Arman Asmar Syarifuddin told AFP.

Among the victims were a 29-year-old Austrian man whose name has not yet been released and a 12-year-old Indonesian girl. A German tourist was also injured in the accident and has been released from hospital after receiving treatment, Syarifuddin said.

Police have detained and questioned the drivers of the truck and the bus to determine the cause of the accident.

Transport accidents are common in Indonesia, where buses and trains are often old and badly maintained.

At least 11 people were killed and 50 others were injured in April when a bus rammed into several other vehicles in West Java province after a suspected brake failure. - AFP

3rd Death Anniversary

In remembrance of our Beloved Asifa Rehman.
We miss you so much.
Love Family

PRESS NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The undersigned for and on behalf of the Governor of Tripura invites e-Tender for Supply Manufacturers / Private or Co-operative Sugar Mills / Sugar Importers / Bulk suppliers / Transporters for supply of 1000 MT of Sugarcane for the year 2017-18 seasons production, to different State Transit Food Government of Tripura and other concerned authorities from July 16, 2017 to August 15, 2017 with option for 06 (six) months extension at the sole discretion of the Food CS&CA Department.

For further details addressees may see & download the NIT Document from the website www.tripuratenders.gov.in/ & www.tripuratenders.gov.in/. Bid is to be made online through www.tripuratenders.gov.in/. Last date & time of submission of Bid is 31.07.2017 up to 05.00 PM.

Sd/- (Dr B Basu, IAS)
Addl. Secretary & Director
Food, Civil Supplies & CA
Government of Tripura
ICA-D/859/17

DEEP TUBE WELL, MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS TO COLONY DRILLS & TRACK MAINTENANCE

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. KIR/Engg/21 of 2017 dt. 06/07/2017

The undersigned for the following works:

Engineering Works: "Supply of Portion for Welding Works"
E-Tender Notice No. : KIR/Engg/21 Date : 07-07-2017 E-Tenders are invited for the work to follow : Tender No. 1 Brief Description of Item At Water Filter Plant at Lava & Sonali Town, District : Lava & Sonali Value : ₹ 53,643.75; Estimated Date : 08/07/2017

Brief Description of Item: Maintenance and operation of Water Supply Filter Plants at Begjan, Pobitora, Dibrugarh, Diphu, Dibrugarh, Kalagni, Rangam & Radhapur under the jurisdiction of DENIL/KIR
Tender Value : ₹ 3,30,18,000/- Estimated Date : 08/07/2017

Date & time of closing of above E-tender : 15.00 hours of 23-08-2017. Date & time of opening of above E-tender : 15.00 hours of 23-08-2017.

The complete information with the tender documents of above E-tender will be available on the website <http://www.reps.gov.in/> on 07-07-2017 in website <http://www.reps.gov.in/>

Divl. Railway Manager Kathar/NORTH EAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With a Smile

DAY TO DAY MAINTENANCE OF NCC RUNNING ROOM

Tender Notice No. Mech-07/2017-18 Date : 07-07-2017 Open sealed tenders are invited for the following works for the purpose of day to day complete maintenance activity of NCC Running Room for a period of 2 years from 24-08-2017 to 23-08-2019.

The tender documents will be submitted to the concerned authority under the jurisdiction of NCC Running Room.

Divl. Railway Manager Kathar/NORTH EAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With a Smile

CONSTRUCTION OF COUNTER FOR ROCK CUTTING, REMOVAL OF SLIPPED & CONSTRUCTION OF WATER DRAINS

E-Tender Notice No. LMG/Engg/19 of 2017 (Item No. 1.2.3 & 4) dt. 07-07-2017. The undersigned for the following works:

SN.1. Brief Description of Item: Protection of Deep Tube Well, Removal of Slipped & Construction of Counter fort
Tender Value : ₹ 53,643.75; Estimated Date : 08/07/2017

SN.2. Brief Description of Item: Removal of Water Drains
Tender Value : ₹ 31,246.00; Earnest Money : ₹ 1,76,630/- SN.3. Brief Description of Item: Removal of Water Drains

SN.4. Brief Description of Item: Renewal of rail painting and other ancillary work under SSEP/Way IV Track
Tender Value : ₹ 1,76,630/- SN.5. Brief Description of Item: Renewal of rail painting and other ancillary work under SSEP/Way IV Track

SN.6. Brief Description of Item: Renewal of rail painting and other ancillary work under SSEP/Way IV Track
Tender Value : ₹ 1,76,630/- SN.7. Brief Description of Item: Renewal of rail painting and other ancillary work under SSEP/Way IV Track

SN.8. Brief Description of Item: Renewal of rail painting and other ancillary work under SSEP/Way IV Track
Tender Value : ₹ 1,76,630/- SN.9. Brief Description of Item: Renewal of rail painting and other ancillary work under SSEP/Way IV Track

SN.10. Brief Description of Item: Renewal of rail painting and other ancillary work under SSEP/Way IV Track
Tender Value : ₹ 1,76,630/- SN.11. Brief Description of Item: Renewal of rail painting and other ancillary work under SSEP/Way IV Track

SN.12. Brief Description of Item: Renewal of rail painting and other ancillary work under SSEP/Way IV Track
Tender Value : ₹ 1,76,630/- SN.13. Brief Description of Item: Renewal of rail painting and other ancillary work under SSEP/Way IV Track

SN.14. Brief Description of Item: Renewal of rail painting and other ancillary work under SSEP/Way IV Track
Tender Value : ₹ 1,76,630/- SN.15. Brief Description of Item: Renewal of rail painting and other ancillary work under SSEP/Way IV Track

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Tender Value : ₹ 1,76,630/- SN.25. Brief Description of Item: Renewal of rail painting and other ancillary work under SSEP/Way IV Track

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Tender Value : ₹ 1,76,630/- SN.37. Brief Description of Item: Renewal of rail painting and other ancillary work under SSEP/Way IV Track

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Tender Value : ₹ 1,76,630/- SN.43. Brief Description of Item: Renewal of rail painting and other ancillary work under SSEP/Way IV Track

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Tender Value : ₹ 1,76,630/- SN.47. Brief Description of Item: Renewal of rail painting and other ancillary work under SSEP/Way IV Track

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Tender Value : ₹ 1,76,630/- SN.49. Brief Description of Item: Renewal of rail painting and other ancillary work under SSEP/Way IV Track

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SN.76. Brief Description of Item: Renewal of rail painting and other ancillary work under SSEP/Way IV Track
Tender Value : ₹ 1,76,630/- SN.77. Brief Description of Item: Renewal of rail painting and other ancillary work under SSEP/Way IV Track

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Tender Value : ₹ 1,76,630/- SN.81. Brief Description of Item: Renewal of rail painting and other ancillary work under SSEP/Way IV Track



Idd Mehfil at Parijat Academy

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 14: Women's Hub, a convergence group of women from Guwahati, organised an Idd Mehfil at the Parijat Academy, Pamohi village on Wednesday, to share post-festival fellowship with the children staying in the hostels of the academy.

Parijat Academy is a non-profit school that was established in 2003 with just four students. Today it has more than 500 tribal

students from nearby forest villages who receive free education there.

At the outset, Swahera Islam, former principal, KC Das Commerce College, Guwahati, addressed the students and explained the purpose of the programme.

Supported by Nazmeen Anam, museum curator, a quiz programme was conducted by Farzana Begum, research officer, Tribal Research Institute, Guwahati, that covered

various aspects of Islam with focused emphasis on various festivals observed by the followers of Islam.

It also helped remove misconceptions about Islam and enhance the knowledge of the children about the various practices followed by the Muslims.

While the winners of the quiz programme received attractive prizes, every other child got an *Idi*, the ritual gift a child gets from an elder member of the family during Idd.

Training on cancer epidemiology and biostatistics at BBCI

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 14: A two-week summer training programme on cancer epidemiology and biostatistics organised by the Department of Cancer Registry, Epidemiology and Biostatistics of Dibrugarh Cancer Institute (BBCI), Guwahati, concluded today.

The summer training was attended by master and doctoral students representing Gauhati University, Dibrugarh University and Assam Down Town University. The training was a practical-oriented programme.

Dr Manigreeva Krishnatreya, programme coordinator of the training, said BBCI is planning to extend the population coverage of cancer registries in the State. At present, there are only three population-based cancer registries in Assam that register cancer patients residing in Dibrugarh and Cachar districts and the resident population of Kamrup Metro area.

"There are at present 648 diagnostic centres and hospitals across the country which provide cancer data directly to the National Cancer Regis-

Bike lifter held, sent to jail

JALUKBARI, July 14: Abuasa-m Ali (24) alias Kiran Ali, involved in several cases of bike theft from Jalukbari area here, is finally in the police net.

After his arrest by Kharupathia police on July 8 and imprisonment in Darrang Jail, Abuasa-m was brought here by police yesterday and produced before the court here today. The court sent him to judicial custody.

A bike was recovered from Abuasa-m at the time of his arrest. Police probe is on and many more bike reveries are expected. - Correspondent

Meeting put off

GUWAHATI, July 14: In view of the flood situation, the meeting between the Chief Minister and different communities of Dima Hasao scheduled for tomorrow here has been postponed. The new date will be announced soon, sources said. - Staff Reporter

Judicial custody

GUWAHATI, July 14: Prime suspect in the multi-crore-ruppe tax evasion scam, deputy superintendent of excise Pranjal Boru was today produced before the Court of Special Judge, after expiry of his 10-day police custody. The court remanded him to judicial custody. His bail application will be heard on July 19. - Staff Reporter

Nirman conclave to help faster implementation of projects: CM

Meet of contractors, engineers on infrastructure development

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 14: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today urged contractors and contractors' firms to embody the government's hand in swift and quality implementation of infrastructure projects in the State.

Inaugurating Nirman 2017, the first ever conclave of contractors and engineers on infrastructure development in Assam which was held at the Assam Administrative Staff College, Khamapara here, Sonowal said contractors, engineers, public and the government are equal partners in development and expressed hope that the conclave would pave the way for faster implementation of infrastructure-related projects.

"The call of the hour is to work together as a team. Understand the difficulties faced by contractors. But all of you must value the responsibility entrusted upon you and dedicate yourself to the cause of making Assam a developed State," Sonowal said.

Advocating better coordination and frequent interaction between the contractors and engineers, the Chief Minister suggested maintenance of complete transparency in execution of all government works. "Talk to the local people, inform them about the project and the fund outlay and seek their support for successful completion of the same,"

Sonowal added. Asserting that Assam would witness large-scale infrastructure development projects in the days to come, Sonowal favoured skill augmentation of local contractors and contacting firms apart from innovation and introduction of new technology, better human resource management practices.

The Chief Minister also referred to the Bharatmala project under which the Government of India would take up projects worth more than Rs 15 lakh crore throughout the country and hoped that state contractors would also compete in the bidding and exhibit their engineering skill and acumen in implementing those projects.

"Our Prime Minister defines the North East as the new engine for new India. Our contractors are valuable partners in helping this goal to materialise. Our Act East Policy will open new market opportunities for Assam in the ASEAN members. If we have to capture that market, we'll have to grow accordingly," Sonowal said.

Earlier, delivering the welcome address, PWD Minister Parimal Suklakshya said Nirman 2017 is an endeavour of the Government of Assam to partner with contractors and consulting firms for exchanging ideas, sharing experiences and finding solution to all critical issues for creating a better working environment and making Assam one of the most developed states in the country. The conclave

would try to understand the problems faced by contractors and work to assure them to create a new environment in the construction sector in Assam, Suklakshya said. The Minister further informed that the experience to be gained from the two-day conclave would be shared with the Chief Minister and interventions would be made accordingly.

Additional Chief Secretary, Works Department of Government of Assam Alok Kumar, while highlighting the deterrents that affect faster implementation of infrastructure projects, said that quicker adoption of best practices, enhancing collaboration and coordination between state holding departments, mitigating seasonal shortage of construction materials and maintenance of assets are some of the major issues which would be taken up for discussion during the conclave.

Representing the contractors and contracting firms, Upad Medhi highlighted some of the issues hampering their overall performance. He placed certain suggestions before the government for creating a better working relationship. Government departments like PWD, Irrigation, water resources, PHE, Assam Power Distribution Company Ltd, Guwahati Municipal Corporation, Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority, contractors' associations, financial institutions and machinery companies are taking part in the two-day conclave.

Education deptt decision hailed

GUWAHATI, July 14: The All Assam Non-sanctioned College Teachers' Association has appreciated the decision of the education department to fill up the 600 vacant posts of assistant professor at the earliest.

Education Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had informed a delegation of the association led by secretary Dr Kulid Borah and assistant secretary Gagan Nath that services of the non-sanctioned college teachers would be regularised against the existing vacancies soon.

The education department has decided to adjust the services of the non-sanctioned college teachers against 150 vacant posts, while 450 others would be fresh appointees.

Meanwhile, advertisements have been published to fill up 289 vacant posts of teachers in various colleges. In a statement, the association hoped that the two-decade-old demand by the non-sanctioned teachers would finally be resolved due to the efficient role of the Education Minister and senior officers of the department. - Staff Reporter



"If every citizen resolves that he will not use Petrol or Diesel one day in a week-- these are not very big things. This in itself would be a good beginning to the New India,"



Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
Government of India

National Competition-2017

From 15th July 2017 to 15th September 2017

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SAVE FUEL FOR BETTER ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH



MESSAGE FOR TODAY

In this dangerous world that we live in, where hatred and violence and natural disasters sometimes collide to almost overwhelm us, we each can help in some way.

—MARSHA BLACKBURN

**Flood havoc**

The devastating floods which are yet to abate have left behind a trail of death and destruction in the State. In the current wave, 26 districts of the State are reeling under floods. The floods have already claimed 50 lives while over 17 lakh persons have been affected by the rising water levels. Many have been rendered homeless and are taking shelter in the relief camps, embankments and highlands. Many have lost their homes, personal valuables along with their agricultural produce and livestock. Heavy rainfall in Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland has compounded the flood woes in the State as several tributaries of Brahmaputra flow from these neighbouring States. What has made matters worse is that in spite of the tall claims made by the Government on the repair and safety of the embankments, in the current floods three embankments gave way in Majuli island while the surging waters released from North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ranganadi dam washed away a 50-metre stretch of embankment in Lakhimpur district causing extensive damage. The impact of flood waters has damaged many roads and bridges across the State. The current wave of floods has inundated nearly 75 per cent area of Kaziranga National Park putting the lives of the animals in peril. Several animals have already lost their lives in the floods.

With floods being an annual feature in the State for decades, it's an irony that till date no effective solution has been evolved to reduce their intensity. After every flood, it has almost become a ritual for the powers that be to announce that effective steps would be taken to tackle floods. The Government should conduct an extensive study on the causes behind the floods and chalk out steps to minimise the damage caused by it. The embankments need to be repaired and strengthened before the onset of the floods. One of the cause of floods which is very apparent is excessive siltation in the rivers due soil erosion. Human factors like massive deforestation in the hilly areas too contributes to the increase in the silt load of the rivers. After every devastating flood it has become customary for the Centre to deplore a team to assess the flood damage. This time too Union Minister Kiren Rijiju made an on-the-spot survey of the worst flood-hit areas of Lakhimpur and Dhemaji. But that does not actually serve any purpose, unless effective steps are taken to minimise the destruction caused by the recurring floods. Until that happens, floods will continue to wreak havoc in the State.

Ugly face

There are two aspects to the death of China's most well-known dissident, Liu Xiaobo, both steeped in cynicism. First is the reality that no matter what kind of a face China attempts to present to the world, the warts would occasionally reveal themselves. Currently China is being woed by the international community, and President Xi Jinping is rubbing shoulders with the most powerful leaders of the world. Amidst such bonhomie the brutal and authoritarian nature of the regime he heads is apt to be forgotten, but there are occasional elbow-prods to the world as reminders. The horrific slaughter of protesters at Tiananmen Square in 1989 had been one such extreme instance; the equally horrific "killing" of Liu Xiaobo is another. Sentenced to an 11-year prison term for framing his "charter of rights" for the oppressed people of China, Tiananmen-activist Liu had stuck to his beliefs that China had to "advance towards freedom and democracy," and paid the ultimate price for it. He was willfully not given the proper treatment which he required for liver-cancer even as his wife was kept in house arrest in fear that she might talk about his predicament to the world. Only at the very last, when he was beyond cure, was he "released on parole;" but even then he was not allowed to travel abroad for treatment despite the disease being terminal in nature.

This is brutality in an insane form, yet Liu's sacrifice has not been able to loosen the globe's embrace of China. This mirrors the second aspect – the international community pays little lip service to principles like individual liberty and right to free speech. The ritualistic nature of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize was, in every sense, a travesty, as was the "empty chair" in the Award ceremony, which Liu was not allowed to attend. The world could have done far better by putting pressure on China to free Liu and allow him to leave the country. But, naturally, the Chinese "market" is a luscious one, so the world had rather let sleeping dogs lie than alienate China by harping on a jailed dissident. Why, new US President Donald Trump not only played host to Jinping, but even called him a "good man," a strange certificate for an individual who leads one of the most authoritarian regimes on the planet! Given that the Chinese regime's hold on the populace through coercion and propaganda is strong, there is hardly any prospect of Liu's dream of a free society being realized. On the contrary, mainland China is putting its vice-like grip on other freedom aspiring Liu Xiaobos in places like Hong Kong. There has been little condemnation from the international community on human rights violations in the erstwhile British colony, thereby revealing a face as ugly as China's!

Boosting trade ties between Bangladesh, NE India

Dwaipayan

An India-Bangladesh Friendship Dialogue was held in Guwahati recently. It was the 8th round of friendship meet between the two neighbouring countries. It concluded on July 4 last with special emphasis on greater people-to-people contact in order to develop stronger relations between the two neighbours not merely to ensure sustainable economic growth and political goodwill but also to share prosperity between the people of the two countries.

The significance of the Friendship Dialogue is that it discussed a number of crucial issues concerning the North-east India and Bangladesh such as innovation, entrepreneurship, healthcare, tourism, education, human resource development, finance, technology, industrial production, power generation and energy.

In these key areas, the Guwahati Declaration which was formally announced at the validationary session said that a greater people-to-people and business-to-business contact between the two regions was crucial for peace and rapid prosperity.

It is heartening to note that an office of the Assistant High Commissioner was set up in Guwahati recently. This should help promote tourism of both North-east India and Bangladesh. Travelling will not be a big challenge because road, rail and water communication channels are gradually being set up.

Speaking during the inaugural session of the Friendship Meet, Chief Minister Sarbananda

Sonowal said that dredging of the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers will not just help deal with floods in Assam and Bangladesh, but also improve navigation facilities. He quite aptly sought cooperation from Bangladesh in this regard. Improved navigable channels may enhance trade and commerce, as the Chief Minister observed, between India and its neighbour through the riverine routes. But there is doubt in the minds of some people whether dredging of the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers will at all be of any help in tackling chronic flooding, or upgrading navigation facilities.

Assam Health and Family Minister, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma speaking at the validationary session was of the view that the north-eastern States and Bangladesh can join hands to create "world-class" institutions and facilities in the areas of education and health-care. True, these two are the major areas of cooperation between the North East India and its neighbour. World-class educational institutions in these key areas, if set up in these regions, will not only benefit the students considerably but also help earn huge revenues for the concerned governments; besides generating ample avenues for educated unemployed youths. Indeed, there is also another aspect that should be taken note of while establishing such educational institutions;

ary level. For instance, in Assam parents spend for the purpose, on an average between Rs 1,500 to Rs 8000-9000 per month in a private school up to the tenth standard.

The health-care system in the North-east, is far from amusing. In the region, especially in Assam, there are too many private nursing homes. But very few of these have super-specialist doctors and the latest medical equipment to treat dreaded diseases. That part, treatment in these private nursing homes is quite expensive. If the Bangladesh Government in close cooperation with the Assam

Government sets up world-class private nursing homes with super-specialists and makes medical treatment less expensive than in some other existing private health-centres in the region, patients with serious diseases may then stop going to South India incurring huge costs.

While delivering his address at the India-Bangladesh Friendship dialogue, India's Minister of State for External Affairs, MJ Akbar,

made a mention of the likelihood of Bangladesh opening up the Chittagong port. If the country really offers India the facility to use its south-eastern Chittagong port to transport goods to the landlocked North-east, essential food items such as sugar, potato, dal, onion, mustard oil etc; can be expected to be easily available and at reasonable prices there. Indeed, the situation will further improve if along south-eastern Chittagong port, south-western Mongla seaport is offered for use by India to help boost regional trade.

Bangladesh, on the contrary, will also be an equal gainer from trade with the North-east, or for that matter, Assam, if the ports are further confirmed by the then Indian High Commissioner PK Chakraborty, in Dhaka a couple of years ago, when he said that the country could earn revenue between \$1.5 billion and \$2 billion if the Chittagong port is allowed for regional use. If Dhaka opens it, revenue earnings will be huge.

However, in spite of the Guwahati dialogues and declaration, there is still some doubt whether the relationship between North-east India and Bangladesh will be cordial in the coming days; because the vexed foreigners' issue has remained unaddressed.

During his recent official visit to Guwahati, Bangladesh's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sharif Alam, was of the view that there had been no illegal infiltration into Assam from Bangladesh. He said that the Bangladesh Government is unaware of the presence of Bangladeshi immigrants. He also commented that he did not know about illegal migration into Assam from Bangladesh. He added that India has never taken up the issue of illegal immigrants with Bangladesh at a bilateral level. If the minister's statement is construed to be authentic, there are indeed genuine reasons for concern. For the backward North-east India, trade and commerce between India and Bangladesh is essential to boost its frail economy. At the same time, it is also important to resolve the issue of illegal migrants. Which is why the Government of India should without further delay raise the issue with Dhaka and press it for an early repatriation treaty under which Bangladesh can agree to take back verified illegal immigrants from this region.

Assam Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, however, ignited hopes among the people in the State when he said during the Dialogue that Dispur will approach Dhaka, through New Delhi, for a lasting solution to the vexed problem after the draft NRC is out by the end of the year.

Human Library – Borrow people instead of books

Keshabnanda Haloi

Human library first started in Copenhagen, Denmark in the year 2000. It is an international organization whose aim is to challenge prejudices against social contact among people. It is not different from a traditional library. Human library participants can be checked out, at which point they engage in conversations and share stories with the public. In a traditional library, one can borrow books, but in the human library one can borrow a human from the library and share different ideas lively. The difference is that in the human library, the books are people. People who volunteer to become "books" make their experiences open and available, usually on issues that people tend to have a difficult time discussing. "Readers" are encouraged to ask questions freely, and they will get honest answers in return. "Readers" get a chance to hold one-on-one conversations with them.

The idea of The Human Library began in 2000 when a Denmark-based youth organization called "Stop the Violence", developed a

collection of living books for a festival in Copenhagen. They wanted the festival visitors to challenge their own prejudices, so the books offered an array of people with different beliefs and lifestyles. Their idea spread throughout Europe and across the world. In 2006, a library in Lismore, Australia, created the first permanent Human Library. The human library wanted to create community-building events that let people talk to people with different perspectives and backgrounds. The idea of making our grandmothers' and grandfathers' story available to anyone who wanted to hear it was nothing new. They are living books. They are the witness through their actions, tolerance, love and acceptance. But things are bad now and grandparents are thrown out by their own sons and daughters-in-law from their homes who never care to know whether they are alive or dead. Therefore, kids are now deprived of listening to sweet stories from their grandparents. These stories can change our lives to a great extent because it is a human li-

brary. This unique concept allows you to borrow a "human book" for around 20 minutes, ask any number of questions to them that would help dispel misconceptions, provide more information and provide participants with better knowledge of a subject or idea, after which they are to be "returned" to the depot.

Started in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2000 by Ronni Abergel in an attempt to enforce social change and encourage conversation around marginalised communities, the Human Library movement has expanded to around 80 countries. In India, it was introduced in Hyderabad, and then made its way to Mumbai, before coming to the Capital.

According to Neha Singh, book depot manager of the Delhi chapter, the first event showcased 'books' from 11 categories, ranging from a recovering drug abuser; Buddhist practitioner and tea-seller turned author to female solo traveller, cancer survivors, bullying victim and history chronicler, among others. The human books were chosen based on their knowledge and stories to share.

US is often described as imperialistic and an out-and-out capitalist country by the third world, specifically by the so-called leftist intellectuals, they deliberately overlook the humanitarian works and the huge sacrifice of men and money the US make in the conflict areas all over the globe.

No country has sacrificed so much to strengthen democracy and normal civilian rule in many countries as the US and to rid the world of military autocrats, radical Islamic forces and religious bigots. It is certain that in rebuilding the decimated Iraqi city, the US will make the largest contribution. The US is the only power that can destroy the tentacles of radical Islamic groups turning the middle east into a killing field and exporting their damned jihad to other parts of the world. There is no doubt that the Americans have business interest in everything they do, the other countries are no different. But when the US do something for the common interest of all the countries and humanity, it needs to be appreciated.

Yours etc., MANOJ BARTHAKUR, Sivasagar

Unwarranted act

Sir – This is with reference to the news that in 124 high schools, not a single student could pass in the last hslc exam. It is really a very serious matter for the headmasters of the concerned schools in particular and the teachers in general. There are reasons to believe that the teachers failed to help students pass the examination. The profession of teachers is different from those of other Government employees though both are in alignment as far as pay and allowances are concerned.

Needless to say that the teachers have to prepare the future citizens of the country.

In the circumstances, the Education department will in the first instance hold the concerned headmasters responsible for the dismal performance of the schools in the examination. However, there are a set of rules and procedure to draw proceedings against the headmasters and bring them to book, if found guilty. It is very surprising that the Education Minister, in complete disregard to the rules, scolded the headmasters in public. This is uncalled for and unmerited of the Education Minister. This is nothing but an act of autocracy on the part of the minister exhibiting disrespect to the entire teaching community.

Yours etc., RAVI RANJAN BORA, Kamrup, Nagaon

Dismal highways

Sir – Our highways, unarguably the lifeline of the State, are in the worst-ever condition. I had the misfortune of travelling via the NH37 from Guwahati to Dibrugarh last week. The highly dilapidated state of the road poses a real danger to the commuters as time consuming. The less said about the sick and those having to commute on a regular basis.

I would like to urge the concerned authorities to repair the highways on an urgent basis.

The promises of heavy investments on infrastructure projects do sound good and will probably bear fruit in the distant future but we are equally concerned about our current state of affairs. With a powerful State Government in place and an accommodating Central Government of the same party we see no plausible excuse for such pitiable roads. We only hope that the commuters will see some good days soon. Yours etc., ABHINAN BARUA

Threat to physicians

Sir – A major threat that physicians and doctors are facing nowadays are the information provided about diseases, treatments and medicines on the

internet. More than trusting a doctor, people trust the web pages before going for or undergoing treatment. Internet is a gift to the current world but not every information in the internet is true and complete.

It is not at all justified to judge a physician's ability with the information provided by the web pages. A common man thinks that it is beneficial for them but it affects health negatively. A physician works hard for years to become a good doctor. It is to humiliate the medical degree when the physician is abused, assaulted or cross-questioned based on points mentioned in few web pages.

Information provided by the internet is helpful on many occasions but it is the people who should sift the necessary and unnecessary knowledge from the internet. People expect perfect healthcare but force a doctor to treat the patient as mentioned in the internet. A doctor's qualification cannot be earned through the internet. Yours etc., DR GITARTHA ROYMEDHI, Survey, Beltola, Guwahati

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

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir – Propose your esteemed

editorial on July 11 (Not the end), I

feel that the world is indeed not

yet free from the scourge of the

dreaded Daesh or Islamic State of

Iraq and Levant (ISIL) also known as

as ISIS) though their fall in Mosul

is almost complete after nine

months of fierce battle. It is a

military victory achieved by the

Iraqi Army and Elite Police Brigade

backed by the mighty military

machines of the US and the heroic

Kurdish fighters known as

Pesmerga. This victory will

however be followed by more

victories in Syria and all other

parts now occupied by the ISIS

which is being pushed to the wall

on all fronts.

The jubilant scenes of entrapped

civilians, emerging from under the

rubbles of a ravaged city, thronging

the streets, have brought cheers

to billions faces across the world

eagerly awaiting the doom of the

brutal radical Islamic terrorists

who are a potent threat to our

very civilization. This victory

would not have been possible had

not been the US Air Force

pouring the ISIS bases with hi-

tech bombers, drones and satellite

surveillance system. Though the

Give purchase-related info periodically

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 14: The State Information Commission has directed the Agriculture Department and the Assam Seeds Corporation (ASC) Limited to disclose all the procurement related information periodically. The Commission issued the order in response to a petition filed by Joydeb Das who sought information from ASC regarding procurement of hybrid maize seeds for scientific cultivation.

State Chief Information Commissioner HS Das, while disposing the appeal of the petitioner, observed that the information sought by the petitioner had been maintained and disclosed proactively.

In his order, Das directed the State's Agriculture Department and the Assam Seeds Corporation Limited to publish suo motu and update periodically all relevant procurement related information such as list of items and their quantities proposed for procurement; their respective schemes

along with the budget provisions; administrative machinery and arrangement for distribution of procured goods among the agencies to the final beneficiaries indicating the intermediate stages and agencies in between; information of procured goods

State Information Commission directs Agri Dept, Seed Corp

whether fully or partly subsidised and their rates and quantum of subsidy; administrative charges or commissions; copy of the NITs with names of firms or suppliers submitting their bids, list of valid and invalid bids; technical or quality specification of different items; copy of the comparative statements of the selected valid bids; copies of supply orders, copies of technical report of verification of the quality of the supplied seeds or procured items; the report of the procurement agency on the quantities sup-

plied; copies of reports of district agriculture offices or BDOs, etc.; copies of bills submitted by suppliers and information about payments made by procurement agencies including transportation bills; verification report of L-1 price with prevailing market price; and in case of procurement of seeds, list of seed growers registered with the Assam Seeds Certification Authority and whether seeds procured from outside the State have been certified by the Authority.

The Commission said suo motu disclosure of information in matters relating to procurement by public authority is a necessary prerequisite for containment of corruption and promotion of transparency and accountability. Moreover, the Commission has directed the Chief Secretary to issue suitable instructions to all administrative departments and procurement agencies for similar actions.

Minister reviews prices of essential commodities

GUWAHATI, July 14: A meeting was held at the Guwahati Circuit House today under the chairmanship of Food and Civil Supplies Minister Rabin Daimary who reviewed the existing stock and prices of essential items in the city. The meeting was attended by Kamrup (Metro) Deputy Commissioner Dr M Angamuthu, representatives of the Kamrup Chamber of Commerce (KCC) and senior officials from the Kamrup (Metro) district administration and the Food and Civil Supplies Department.

It was decided in the meeting that a decision would soon be taken to remove import duty on sugar to provide succor to consumers. The Minister said the State Government would request the Railways authorities to start an initiative so that unloading of products near markets becomes easier. Daimary also called upon the traders to maintain stock levels and ensure that there is no shortage of essential commodities in the ongoing flood season. – Staff Reporter

Forum inspects Zoo cages

GUWAHATI, July 14: The newly constituted Zoo Protection Forum yesterday inspected the cages of the Assam State Zoo.

The seven-member delegation of the forum noticed that the drinking water containers in the cages were dry. Deer were licking the wet mud in thirst, the delegation observed.

According to the forum, the hippopotamuses were also kept in a very unhygienic condition. Similar was the condition of the crocodiles. "The condition of the cages has been deteriorating day by day. There is only one permanent cleaner at the zoo at present. The X-ray machine in the zoo hospital is lying defunct. Many animals were staring at death," the forum said.

The forum is in the process of drafting a memorandum to the State government on the plight of the zoo. Forum's secretary Rajkumar Baishya said the first executive meeting of the forum will be held on July 17 next. – Staff Reporter

4 youths missing
CORRESPONDENT

JALUKBARI, July 14: Police are searching for four youths of Mihijuli Path, Boragaon, who went missing on Wednesday after leaving their respective homes around 4.30 pm.

The missing youths have been identified as Jasmina Akhtar (15), Jammoni Hazarika (15), Khamkar (22), Horakrishna Khanikar (19) and Suniti Ali (18), police sources said.

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati Guwahati - 781 039, Assam

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Journalists attacked at Jorabat

the miscreants. Ghosh somehow managed to run away. Police and CRPF personnel soon appeared on the scene, but the miscreants managed to flee.

An FIR was lodged and case was registered this morning at Khanapara Police Outpost.

Two of the four miscreants have been identified by the locals as one Kaalu of 9th Mile and the other as Lymbu. The Jorabat branch of AASU, Indian Reporters Association, Jorabat Journalists' Union and Assam Sangrami Chatra Sanstha have condemned the attack on the journalists and threatened to launch a protest programme if the police fail to take strict action against the culprits within 24 hours. – Correspondent

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M. Sc. in Zoology	-Do-	-Do-
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First Conclave of Contractors & Engineers on Infrastructure Development in Assam



FIRMAN 2017
Conclave of Contractors & Engineers on Infrastructure Development

**First Conclave of Contractors & Engineers
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on 14th & 15th July, 2017

at Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Guwahati

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam
will inaugurate the event on 14th July 2017 at 11:30 AM
in presence of
Hon'ble Ministers of all Work Departments of Assam

Brainstorming plenary sessions, discussion on engineering concepts, contractual issues, new technologies & ideas.

Participating Organisations

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Taking Assam to a new height



Sarbananda Sonowal
Chief Minister, Assam



Submerged houses of a village in Golaghat district on Thursday. — UB Photos

Attack on pilgrims condemned

NAGAON, July 14: The Assam State Jamaat Ulema E Hind has condemned the Pakistani-based terrorists attack on the Amarnath pilgrims in Jammu and Kashmir recently. In a statement, Publicity Secretary of the organisation Faizur Rahman described the attack as an act of cowardice and anti-human. "This kind of attack does not serve any purpose," he said in the statement. — Correspondent

OBITUARY

Birendra Nath Bhattacharyya

CORRESPONDENT

DERGAON, July 14: Birendra Nath Bhattacharyya, a retired employee of Assam State Electricity Board and a resident of Dergaon ward no. 3 Geelabari riverside, passed away on July 5. He was 80.

Bhattacharyya was associated with several organisations in the locality. He leaves behind his wife, two sons along with a host of relatives. His death was widely mourned.

Premeswar Kakoti

MORIGAON, July 14: Premeswar Kakoti, a senior citizen of Morigaon town breathed his last on Wednesday at his residence here due to old-age ailments. He was 96.

Kakoti was a veteran sports organiser in Morigaon district and was the former president of Morigaon District Veteran Sports Association. He was also associated with several socio-cultural organisations of Morigaon district. Morigaon District Sports Association deeply mourned the death of veteran footballer Premeswar Kakoti. He leaves behind his wife, a son, three daughters besides a host of relatives. — Correspondent

Kalyani Mazumder

GUWAHATI, July 14: Kalyani Mazumder, a popular lady and sports organiser passed away in a private nursing home here on July 13 morning.

She was a popular teacher and was the retired principal of Panbari Girls' HS School. After retirement she became busy as a sports organiser and writer. She participated in the veteran sports meet held at Jakarta. Her cremation in Boothnath was largely attended.

Govt's step against errant doctors welcomed

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, July 14: A sensational situation still prevails in the Tezpur Medical College & Hospital following the suspension of three irregular doctors yesterday by the Health department. It is to be stated that allegation of severe mismanagement in the Medical College and Hospital, like lack of cleanliness, irregularities by doctors, misappropriation of funds allotted against various departments, were gaining intense media coverage.

However, giving a latest update on the entire issue, Deputy Superintendent of the MC&H, disclosed before this Correspondent that following complaints from various sources regarding the mismanagement of the medical

college, an inspection team from the Health department comprising Principal Secretary, Health, Government of Assam, Samir Sinha and Director of Medical Education (DME), Dr Anup Kumar Barman visited the medical college on July 5.

During their visit they found 66 doctors out of the 142 doctors of various departments absent besides mismanagement of funds by the authority of the medical college. Based on this, the Health department suspended three doctors including Dr Apurba Nath, Dr Saitendra Das and Dr Suranjana Chaliha Hazarika while the principal of the college, Dr Madhuriya Kumar Thakur, who was earlier mentioned as suspended in the July 14 issue of this newspaper, was actually transferred to the original place of his posting in Barpeta

Fakkaruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College and Hospital.

It needs mention here that after the retirement of the former principal of the medical college, Dr Madhuriya Kumar Thakur, who was the Professor of Radiology department of Barpeta Medical College had joined TMC&H as the principal on January 1, 2017. Meanwhile, the common public coming to the hospital for the treatment said that due to certain activities of some of the errant doctors, the poor people used to face many unwanted situations. "Now we are hopeful that after this incident a change will come, thereby benefiting the common man. We heartily welcome the steps taken up by the department concerned as this will put a positive impact on the hospital," people said.

Training programme on Soil Health Card organised

CORRESPONDENT

RAHA, July 14: A two-day officers' programme on 'Soil Health Card' was organised recently at the Regional Agricultural Research Centre (RARC) Shillong, Nagaon. The training programme was sponsored by the Department of Agriculture, Govt of Assam. RARC organised the programme in collaboration with Assam Agricultural University, RARS and KVK, Nagaon.

The inaugural session held on the occasion was chaired by Dr PK Das, chief

scientist of RARS, Shillong, Nagaon. Dr B Barman, former chief scientist and OSD of AAU and consultant, Phyto Soils welcomed the dignitaries and participants.

In his speech, he elaborated the importance of soil testing and soil health card for sustainable crop production in the state.

Dr Talukdar, Joint Director of Agriculture, Central zone, formally inaugurated the two days programme. D Pangieng, District Agricultural Officer of Nagaon and Dr N Deka, head of KVK, Nagaon also spoke on the occasion.

The programme was implemented as

hands-on-orientation training as part of the Central sector scheme on 'Soil Health card' under National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture. Altogether 32 participants from Nagaon, Morigaon, Hojai, Sonitpur, Biswanath, Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao districts of Assam comprising SDAOs, senior ADOs, ADOs, Soil Chemists, BTM, AAAs and AEAs attended the training. The classes were taken by scientists from the Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS), Shillong and KVK Nagaon, namely, TP Saikia, ASN Zaman and S Bhagawati. The course content included theory sessions on basic analytical

principles, instrumentation of tools and cutting edge techniques in physical-chemical analysis of soil as well as hands-on practical sessions on various soil health parameters.

In the feedback session, trainees were overwhelmed by the knowledge gained through various analytical procedures in nutrient estimation in soil, exposure on handling equipment, especially Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer and Mrida Parkishak, a portable digital soil test kit-cum-mini lab as well as the underlying principles in all soil analysis.

Dr TP Saikia, principal scientist of

RARS served as the coordinator of the programme.

It may be mentioned here that 'Soil Health Card Scheme' is a scheme launched by the Government of India in February, 2015. Under this scheme, the government plans to issue soil cards to farmers which will carry crop-wise recommendations of nutrients and fertilizers required for the individual farms to help farmers to improve productivity through judicious use of inputs. The government plans to issue the cards to 14 crore farmers and till now eight crores farmers of the nation received such cards.

Foundation day of ABVP observed at Hailakandi

CORRESPONDENT

HAILAKANDI, July 14: On the occasion of the foundation day of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyaarthi Parishad (ABVP), various programmes were observed in the five branches of Hailakandi district as National Students' Day. Established in 1948 with the vision to reconstruct the nation and make youth aware and dedicated toward their country, ABVP is a right-wing All India student organisation affiliated to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

It participates in joint activities with BJP's official youth wing, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha. The main programme here was organised among Sanskrit Vidyaapeeth in Hailakandi town. The inaugural meeting held on the occasion was addressed by the district secretary, Phulan Das who stated that the organisation was established in 1948 with only five members and later it was registered in July 9, 1949.

He said that the members of the parishad work 365 days throughout the nation and add-

ed that their main motto is to create a patriotic mentality among the students and also to develop their knowledge and mould good characters.

He urged the students to dedicate themselves for the cause of the nation. He said that the today's student is the responsible citizen of tomorrow.

The meeting was also addressed by ABVP district chief, Dr Gulab Nandi, district coordinator, Abhijit Dey, Rohit Goala, Ankita Bhownomi, Prithi Das, Debabrata Das, Amit Ghosh, Kanakal Deb, Swapna Deep Sen, among others. In Katlicherra, the programme started with the hoisting of the flag by the principal of SK Roy College, Dipak Kanti Ach.

Various competitions including sporting events, quiz, debate etc., were also held on the occasion. The prizes were given away among the winners of various competitions. Some eminent persons and teachers were also felicitated on the occasion. Kabaddi and cricket matches were also organised on the occasion in Koyah tea garden of Hailakandi district.



Children participating in a yoga workshop at Narayanpur, in Lakhimpur district on Thursday. — UB Photos

Bishnulal Upadhyaya: a multi-faceted personality

KK MUKTAN

The birth centenary celebration of late Bishnulal Upadhyaya comes on an end on the July 16, 2017. On this memorable day, the people of North-east India in general and the Gorkhas in particular remember him with profound love and gratitude and offer respectful homage to his departed soul for eternal peace. Late Bishnulal Upadhyaya was a multi-faceted personality, a noted freedom fighter, an educationist, a connoisseur of Assamese and Nepali literatures and a stalwart among Gandhian leaders, all rolled into one. He was born of a humble and respectable Nepali Brahmin family of Majhgaon, under Mouza Behal, in Darrang district (now Biswanath district).

As a student Bishnulal was a sharp

and intelligent boy. He passed his matriculation in the first division from Tezpur Government Boys' High School in 1938 with letter marks in Sanskrit and graduated in 1944 from the Cotton College, Gauhati. While still a student, Bishnulal took part in Freedom Movement under the guidance of the prominent Congress leaders of Tezpur like Omro Kumar Das, Gahan Chandra Goswami, Vijoy Chandra Bhagawati and Chhabilal Upadhyaya.

During the Quit India Movement, he took active part in the historic procession of September 20, 1942 which culminated in pulling down of the British Union Jack and hoisting of the Congress flag at the Behal Police Station. For this reason Bishnulal Upadhyaya along with others were arrested and imprisoned at Tezpur Jail. Knowing him to be a student of

Cotton College, the Magistrate tried to win him over by saying, "You are a young student, you have a future. If you agree to sign a bond stating that you would not do such an act in the future, I would set you free." Bishnulal smartly replied, "Whatever I did, I did it knowingly and I will continue to do it". Hearing such a curt reply of young Bishnulal, the Magistrate sentenced him to six months' rigorous imprisonment.

Behal High School started in 1941 with Bishnulal Upadhyaya, though still a college student, as its founder and the only teacher. After graduation he again joined Behal High School as Head Master and worked as such until 1957 when he was unexpectedly offered a Congress ticket to contest election to the Assam Legislative Assembly.

Working in the Behal High School for

long 14 years he made a great contribution to the cause of education for the backward people of that area by dint of his consistent effort, hard work and dedication.

In 1957 election he returned as a member to the Assam Legislative Assembly from Golpur constituency, and, thereafter, he continued to remain in that office for three consecutive terms till 1972. After a break of five years, in 1978 he became Congress MLA once again from Behal constituency for one full term from 1978 till 1983. As an MLA, Bishnulal Upadhyaya was an able democrat and a disciplined parliamentarian.

He was imbued with Gandhian ideology and followed the teachings of Gandhiji in letter and spirit. In 1960 when Binoba Bhava visited Assam, he became one of the active members of

the Assam State Binoba Bhava Reception Committee. He also acted as the Chairman of the two-day seminar held at Halem Revenue Circle office on October 13-14, 1966 for the review of the Assam Bludan Act. It was because of his active participation in the Bhoadan movement that many landless cultivators of Halem Revenue Circle were benefited with plots of land.

He loved Assamese literature and participated in Assamese cultural functions like Bihu, Rash Mela, Sankaradeva Tithi etc. He was actively involved in Assam Sahitya Sabha as a life member of the same. He wrote books and articles in Assamese language and enriched Assamese literature. Dr Jogenra Narayan Bhuyan, Maheswar Neog and Satish Chandra Kakati praised Bishnulal Upadhyaya as an accomplished Assamese writer. His

book in Assamese, *Durgaraki Mohan Bibhuti*, in which he portrayed the lives of Assamese prophet Sankaradeva and Nepali epic poet Bhanubhakta, he tried to build a golden bridge between the Assamese and the Nepali languages and culture.

Another Assamese book of his, *Eri Oha Din bor*, would go a long way to keep his memory evergreen in the hearts of Assamese people, said Dr Jogenra Narayan Bhuyan. He was awarded Phulchand Khandelwal award by Assam Sahitya Sabha in recognition of his valuable contribution to literature. Bishnulal Upadhyaya was a connoisseur of Nepali literature and occupied a place among the top ranking Nepali litterateurs. He wrote 17 books, of which 12 are in Nepali and five books in Assamese. He breathed his last at his ripe old age of 90 on July 21, 2007.

Slight improvement in flood situation of Kamrup dist

ANN Service

MIRZA, July 14: Flood situation has slightly improved in Kamrup district today. However, the Brahmaputra is still flowing above the danger mark.

According to reports, altogether 50 villages of Palashbari, Goroimari, Chamaria, Nagarbera and Hajo Revenue Circles in the Kamrup district with a population of over 50,000 have been affected in the current flood. Today, the

overall flood situation has improved slightly in the Palashbari LAC giving a sigh of relief to the flood-hit people.

Highly-placed officials sources informed that the people of the flood-affected villages under Goroimari Revenue Circle have been shifted to the relief camps. Similarly, 80 per cent people under Palashbari Revenue Circle have also been provided temporary shelters at Burhakata, Bhatkhowdia and Bardia.

A group people, while sharing information on the vagaries of flood, claimed that around 15,000 cattle are facing acute shortage of fodder as all the grassland areas have been submerged by flood waters.

"Despite repeated request from various organisations, the people under Goroimari, Palashbari, Hajo, Nagarbera and Chamaria Revenue Circles in the Kamrup district are yet to get proper relief," they claimed.

Pranab Kalita, MLA of Palashbari LAC, along with Circle Officer of Palashbari Revenue Circle, Sushapna Kakoty visited the flood-affected areas and took stock of the situation.

Meanwhile, disappointed with the poor relief operations, the people in the areas have criticised the State government. "The need of the hour is to provide adequate relief for the people, but strangely enough, the State government has failed completely in this regard," they alleged.

Mobile medical vans for tea gardens

OUR BUREAU

Protest against poor state of Kalaigaon roads

CORRESPONDENT

testers alleged.

The AASU members also criticised the local MLA and BTC EM for their alleged inaction in this regard.

Later, Gauri Kanta Nath, president and Ranjan Sarma, secretary of the AASU Kalaigaon unit respectively submitted a memorandum to the State Government and BTC authorities through Deputy Commissioner of Udalguri.

"The people of Kalaigaon have been facing a plethora of problems due to poor roads. What is more alarming is that the area has been witnessing a series of road accidents during the last couple of months. So, it is the duty of the govt to solve the problems of common man," they said in the memorandum.



**History will be created in the presence of
President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee
when Ujjwala beneficiaries will complete the mark of 2.5 crore
in the august presence of:**

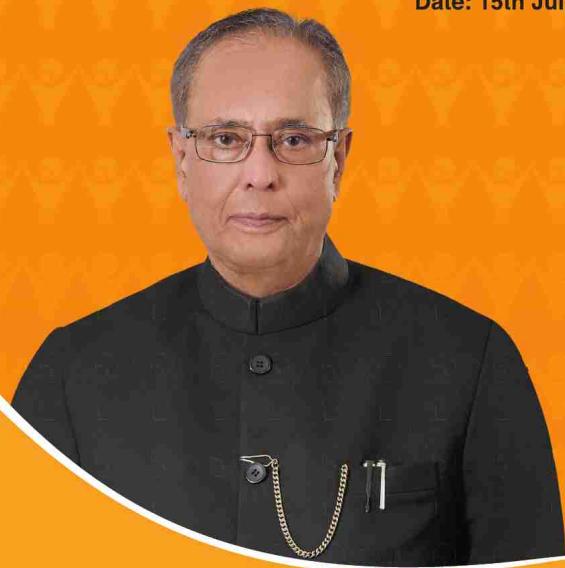
Dharmendra Pradhan

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge),
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Govt. of India

Abhijit Mukherjee

Member of Parliament (MP), Jangipur, Lok Sabha Constituency

Date: 15th July, 2017 | Venue: Jangipur Bhawan, Raghunathganj,
Murshidabad | Time: 10:00 am



Thanks to our visionary Prime Minister,
the number of beneficiaries under
the Ujjwala Programme is going to reach

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Pulak Gogoi – who has been recently honoured with the State Bishnu Rabha Award for fine arts (painting), needs no introduction to the people of Assam, particularly film and art lovers. Though he is better known as a filmmaker of repute – with ten successful films and a good number of TV serials and documentaries to his credit, his contribution towards fine arts (painting) is not discussed much and the present generation is not aware of the versatile painter's works.

Pulak Gogoi is highly revered by artists and art aficionados as a consummate artist who brings myths alive on his canvas. He is the first painter from Assam to hold a solo exhibition at the prestigious Jehangir Art Gallery of Mum-

Apurba Kumar Das

bai, way back in 1971, already recognised as an upcoming young painter. In the very next year, in 1972, he held his solo exhibition at the Hedges Gallery of Washington in the USA, crossing the boundaries of the country to reach a global audience. The US art critics commented on his work as the 'East in the West' through his work. This exhibition was opened by the then Ambassador of India LK Jha. Its success can be gauged by the fact that all his canvases were sold out within two hours of its opening. The Hedges Gallery pressed him to stay in the USA and wanted to sign a contract for three years. But the lure of money failed to attract him.

In the same year, he was invited by the Academy of Fine Arts and Crafts Society, New Delhi, the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, and the Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata.

Earlier, Gogoi's painting exhibitions were held in Shillong, Dulliganj, Tezpur and the Guwahati Art Gallery. He is a trailblazer



who happens to be the first political cartoonist of Assam. His first political cartoon was published in *Asam Bani* in February 1963, marking the beginning of a new career. He also published the first comic book *Paramon Hamid* in 1965, the story of a real war hero character Hamid from the Indo-Pak War. Since then he has continued as a political cartoonist presenting political realities with satire, along with his ca-



reer as a painter of modern art. His cartoons have adorned the pages of *The Assam Tribune, Dainik Asam, Asam Bani* and *Janambhumi*.

Incidentally, this writer has had a close rapport with the artist for a long time. Once he had the opportunity to meet *Singhapurush* Radha Govinda Baruah. Pulak Gogoi was planning to publish a cartoon magazine titled *Cartoon* in the style of the then popular *Shankar's Weekly*, a cartoon magazine. I happened to accompany Gogoi during his meeting with RG Baruah to seek his advice. The latter immediately advised him to go ahead, appreciating the novel idea and assured him all help. The Assamese magazine *Cartoon* remained immensely popular for years.

But as painting was his first love, after completing his intermediate at Jorhat, he left for Mumbai to pursue art in a four-year course of Applied Art at the Bandra School of Art. There he got acquainted with Chandrabhanu Sethi, a producer of Gujarati films. Seth introduced him to Gujarati director Javant Javeri and his art director AA Mazid. Seeing Pulak Gogoi's expertise in art, Mazid immediately employed him as an Assistant Art Director. After working there for some time he became homesick and came back to Assam.

In due course, he joined *The Assam Tribune* as a commercial artist, allowing his creativity a new outlet in cartoons. During the same time, a series

of cartoons were also published in *Dainik Asom*, which drew appreciation. When the weekly newspaper *Satin* started in 1987, Pulak Gogoi's cartoons were an added attraction.

Pulak Gogoi's father, Someswar Gogoi used to act in *Bhaonas*, besides creating objects of beauty with cane and bamboo. Mother Gunabala Gogoi rendered songs and also acted in recorded dramas. All these had an impact on Pulak. At 14, he won the first prize in the All Assam Drawing Competition. Gogoi says, "When I lampooned the rich, people labelled me a socialist. As a cartoonist I prefer to be called a naturalist." On his paintings, he remarks, "The Odisha famine drove me to paint a blue skeletal frame with burning eyes. In my *Birth of a Revolution*, I painted a man emerging from an egg. In another work the roof of a house, painted red, merges with the red of a looming sky. The face-off between Nikita Krushchev and Mao Tse Tung, the showdown between the two great communist nations, inspired me to draw the hammer and sickle, symbols of Communism, striking out at each other."

Pulak Gogoi, the versatile painter-director goes on painting and is writing his script for his forthcoming film based on a story by Syed Abdul Malik.

A folk medium



Joykanta Sarma

Puppetry, a popular folk-form of performing art all over the world, is also a widely-prevalent medium in the countryside of Assam. Srimanta Sankaradeva's works, dating back to five hundred years, also mention this folk-art. With rapid onslaught of sophisticated technology on the one hand, and the electronic media on the other, this rustic folk-art form has been severely threatened, particularly in Assam and painfully, some of the old puppetry groups are almost on the verge of extinction. This, however, is not the case with regard to other centres of puppetry in the country like Andhra Pradesh, where puppeteers being accustomed to changing situation, have also resorted to modern technology and skills.

Such well-trained puppeteers have often been invited to Assam at the be-

hest of the State Directorate of Cultural Affairs which organises workshops for the upcoming local puppeteers. One trained young puppeteer, Binita Devi of Guwahati, who has been awarded a senior scholarship in 2005 and a fellowship from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in 2012, benefited immensely from a workshop that was held in 2011 at the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra under the guidance of a group of well-accomplished puppeteers from Andhra Pradesh.

Binita's craftsmanship in this art form was thoroughly felt in her last public show at the Rabindra Bhawan, recently. All her five programmes, such as a *Borgat* recital on *Mahapurush Sankaradeva's* composition *Suna suna*

he suna, Bagorumba folk dance of the Bodo community, *Lali Hillali* folk dance of the Tiwas, enactment of the famous Assamese folk tale *Tejimola* and another folk tale *Golden Eggs*, aptly demonstrated the director's changing technique. For instance, earlier the puppeteers in Assam were only confined to the string puppetry style, but Binita has used forms like rod puppets, shadow puppets and glove puppets too.

Ranjan Bezbarooh sang in the *Borgat* programme, while Papi Gohain and Udesha Rajbongshi sang in the *Tejimola* drama. Apart from the director herself, and her husband, assistant director Simanta Sarma, puppeteers like Hridoykoti Das, Jiten Boro, Dhrubajyoti Kalita, Monomati Boro and Sunita Boro – mostly students of the director – also seemed to be quite accomplished in the new techniques.

Although the narratives in *Tejimola* and *Golden Eggs* were the usual, they were strikingly bold and thought-provoking, each with a distinctive touch and well-arranged locales on stage itself. This is the hallmark of Binita's work. Binita was awarded a project by the Assam Science Technology and Environment Council on how to develop Assam's puppetry technology; a few years ago; she has now been requested by the Centre for Puppetry Arts, Atlanta, USA, to send a puppet work for its ensuing exhibition. She is sending some puppets to be used for Assam's famous Bihu dance.

ICCR empanels Miranda Choudhury

Miranda Choudhury, eminent folk singer of All India Radio and Doordarshan Kendra, Guwahati, has now been included in the ICCR's Reference Panel of Artists. It may be noted that Miranda has been listed under the 'Folk Music, Assam (Solo)' category. ICCR, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, sends artists to perform different folk and modern songs of Assam as well as of rural India.

countries as an important activity of cultural relationship. Miranda Choudhury is the elder daughter of Naba Kumar Choudhury and Archana Choudhury of Gaupur. Hailing from the rich cultural environment of Goalpara folklore, though Miranda's main fascination is Goalpara folk music, she contributes her study to and perform different folk and modern songs of Assam as well as of rural India.

Mukul Haloi – a director in the making

Mukul Haloi, a fourth year student of the Direction, Film and Television Institute, Pune, is making waves through a 13-minute Assamese short film titled *Shorotor Abilere*, which depicts the tale of an old village couple and their despair and hopes. The film earned accolades at various festivals, both national and international. The film won the Best Short Film Award at the just concluded Documentary and Short Film Festival, Karerà (IDSFFK-Kerala). The other awards include 'Best Short Film' at the International Short Film Festival, Patna, 2017, the Maria Projaszkova Special Award at the Punc International Film Festival, 2017, and the International Film Festival, Kolkata, 2017.

Reema Kagti's Gold

Reema Kagti of *Honeymoon Travels and Tales* fame is presently busy with her third Hindi movie – *Gold*, with celebrated actor Akshay Kumar in the lead role. The film is based on the life of famous Hockey player Balbir Singh – who was also a member of the first Olympic Hockey team of independent India. The team won a gold medal at the London Olympics in 1948. Mouni Roy, popular TV artiste, is playing the female lead. *Gold* is produced by Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani, under the banner of Excel Entertainment.



Green horns

Whenever an art viewer gets to see an exhibition as basic as the one that concluded last week at the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, where the works were by and large of very simple nature, the natural tendency of the viewer is to look for indicators to see whether the artist concerned has got the fundamentals right in his work. If, say, an exhibition comprises works of a higher echelon and great artistic quality, then a viewer with an experienced and trained eye would spontaneously ascend to that level and analyse the works from a higher intellectual perspective, even as the quality of the works would make him almost oblivious of the basics.

In this context, the overall feeling that emanated from the recent exhibition, in which some young artists hailing from Charaideo took part, was that the vital aspects of drawing and painting were not paid much attention to, either due to a lack of proper grasp over the nuances, or due to an overwhelming emphasis on the social messages that they were hell-bent on conveying. When it comes to traditional painting, the category that almost all the works displayed in the exhibition belonged to, themes may be thought of as an integral part, social ones in particular, but without much strength in the basics the thematic aspect will always be lame. Works done under the traditional genres invariably draw the attention of the viewer towards the way the fundamentals have been treated, and if the works are found wanting in these areas, they are liable to put off the viewer no matter how strong or socially relevant the themes may be.

The exhibition, organised by the Charaideo Fine Art and Craft Society, also comprised a guest section where works of a few senior member-artists of the Assam Fine Arts and Crafts Society were displayed. The participants other than those in the guest section



were presumably young, which is evident from the fact that they seemed to have been besieged by a seemingly inescapable need to convey meanings while making a mess of the basics. While their attempt to express what they felt about certain social issues is

artscape
DEBASHISH BEZBARUAH

admirable, it shouldn't have been at the cost of the structural parameters. Some of the more commonly used themes observed in this show included atrocities against women, prevalence of suicide, alcoholism and drug abuse, environmental disaster, cruelty against animals, and, of course, peace. Without much going into the details, let us say that merely assembling different images of crime against women on the canvas is not enough to make the work express the artist's critical view against it, just as it's not enough to merely show a flying pigeon carrying an olive branch to convey the message of peace. It creates a jarring effect in the mind of the viewer if the theme, too, is yawningly clichéd on top of the technical de-

ficiencies. But clichéd themes, too, can be presented well if the basics are alright, and the manner of presentation is mature, subtle and sophisticated. And even a work without a weighty thematic essence can be a good work of art, existing just as a sovereign entity – like a still-life, a landscape, a couple of sand-based sculptures, or a work that contained just a sack placed right in the middle of the canvas.

Even some technical methods become clichéd over time, ostensibly due to their overuse. Ultra-fluid drips of colour, for instance, which are often allowed to fall freely from the top of the surface, have been employed by that so much that the method has by now



become tedious. Such methods also lose their X-factor if the work is found wanting in the basic areas like drawing, composition and colour application, not to speak of the ordinariness of the theme.

It is hoped that the youngsters would learn from this exhibition and come out a much improved lot in their future endeavours.

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Karan Johar's *Shiddat* is a casting coup

Karan Johar's *Shiddat* may star Sridevi, Alia Bhatt, Sanjay Dutt, Varun Dhawan, Sonakshi Sinha and Aditya Roy Kapur. Finally, after all the wait, Karan Johar's much talked about film *Shiddat* is ready to go on floors. The film will be directed by Abhishek Varman who has previously worked with Karan Johar in 2 States.

Talking about the film's star cast, it's huge and nothing but the best. The film will be reuniting Sridevi and Sanjay Dutt after a long span of 25 years. It's also for the first time that Sonakshi and Aditya will be seen sharing the screen together.

movie MAGIC



ROVING EYE
Apurba Kumar Das

A photo exhibition

A week-long photography exhibition, titled *Framed Souvenirs*, was held at the State Gallery from July 1 to 6. It is noteworthy that the exhibits presented by the three photographers – Arpan Kalita, Himadri Bhuyan and Manabendra Chowdhury, who are bound together by their love for the camera, yet separated through those very lenses in their vision and perspective of



everything. They witness their stories about life and its many nuances reflected on their photographs, each adding his own flavour. They travelled roads and climbed mountains to seek something and to discover. And the result was their framed souvenirs.

Readers are hereby invited to contribute original articles related to culture of the North-East (film, music, drama, etc.) along with photographs. They may be e-mailed to cultural@assamtribune.com.

- Features Editor

The lonely shore

Sadiya – considered the easternmost frontier of Assam, is the land where there is a unique blend of culture of the hills and the plains of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Here, a variety of tribes with a colourful and unique lifestyle live in peaceful co-existence and it is the land where history, myth and Nature meet to form a cultural mosaic.

It is Sadiya that the three rivers – namely, the Dihang, Dibang and Lohit meet to form the mighty Brahmaputra at its widest point. Much of the original town of Sadiya was washed away by floods after the great earthquake of 1950. Sadiya, a remote town of Assam today, was a living entity in myth, legend and history. In myth, it was associated with the legend of Krishna and Rukmani, in history, Sadiya is associated with the Chutia Dynasty. The name 'Sadiya' has a tragic annotation – 'So' or 'diva', meaning 'corpse-given', referring to a story from medieval Assamese history of the Chutia King Gaurinarayan, who tragically had to receive the dead body of his son, the prince, while building his new capital. Today Sadiya, one of the sub-divisions of Tinsukia district, is on the threshold of a new era, with the opening of the Dhola-Sadiya Bridge – the longest river bridge in India, aptly named the Dr Bhupen Hazarika Setu.

In literature and music, Sadiya has had a romantic association, particularly with the Bard of the Brahmaputra Dr Bhupen Hazarika, who was born here. The famous musical composition by Khagen Mahanta eulogising Sadiya, its beauty and culture has

made this eastern frontier famous all over Assam:

*Maa ami Sadiyati jaambe
Maa ami Sothphul Khambe
Bandhini ami, Bandhini ami
Kesa paatdi hin.*

Sadiya, the land of Sothphul and Lohit, its culture and colourful way of life was captured many years back in a novel appropriately named *Nijan Ghat* (1966) by the Assamese writer Runu Barua. Based on her personal experience of living in this then remote part of the world and with a good deal of research, it has been described as a "notable contribution" to Assamese fiction by the eminent critic Satyendranath Sarma (in *Asomiyi Upayashar Gotidhara*) expressing the writer's imaginative sensibility and deep creativity. The novel has been scripted against the backdrop of an unspoil, picturesque land, at the easternmost corner of Assam on the foothills of the eastern Himalayas.

The story outlines the journey of the central protagonist Amulya, the eternal Bohemian who goes to Sadiya as a teacher and in the process, discovers his vision of life and himself. Amulya, like most human beings, remains a lonely soul against the backdrop of this remote, beautiful but desolate shore, *nijan ghat*. The work has been cited as a "most successful novel" by another critic Dr Hem Bora (*Elo Boso*, *Asomiyi Upayashar*). This critic has highlighted the richness and variety of character creation, beginning with the cen-



tral character Amulya, Urmila, Ananda, the Mishing girl Champa to Gauri, Achyut, Loknath, Ganesh Majahan, and so on. The critics particularly praise the writer's skill in depiction of situation and evocation of atmosphere.

A very significant aspect of this novel *Nijan Ghat* is the descriptive prowess of the writer, particularly those of the Mishing villages and their unique way of life: of *chang gharas*, weaving activities and festivals. The lilting songs of the Mishing tribe rendered in their original language and their translation into the Assamese language speak volumes about the research the writer had gone into.

The vivid portrayal of this virgin, unspoilt region is heightened by the delineation of Parasuram Kunda, the famed religious spot of the Hindus. The narrative skill of the writer is evident in the sense of drama evoked by the beauty of raw, untamed Nature, captured in the scene of the crossing of the turbulent Lohit River on country boats:

"The scene had an extraordinary quality... all around were scattered dozens of rocks and huge dead trees brought in by the heavy floods of yesteryears..."

"It was deadly cold near the Kunda. On three sides were the hills and the river rushed through them with a tremendous gushing sound, while the wind whistled endlessly."

Apart from these qualitative literary aspects, this novel had the unique distinction of being illustrated by the late Pranab Barooah, one of the most talented artists of the North-East. The cameo on the cover page reflects beautifully the essence of the novel, that of human quest and eternal seeking.

Nijan Ghat by Runu Barua is a novel set in another time but its relevance lies in its unique blend of the cultural, geographical and anthropological details with its distinctive thematic structure that of the juxtaposition of the known and the unknown in both man and Nature, thus, creating a narrative which can be variously termed as a regional, elegiac and romantic novel.

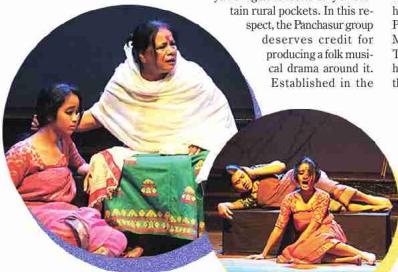
Tradition and modernity

The joy of musical theatre is when everything comes together. We can't just have good songs, or a good script, or good choreography. It all needs to work together. That's what Probin Saikia, the director and Rosmi Rekha Saikia, the choreographer and music composer of *Moishal*, a musical play are trying to do, trying to make the choreography complement the music, the music complement the story. There are very few folk musical plays in our realm of theatre. Present-day directors seem to be blind to it and actors are rarely found to be well-versed in it. A musical play does not necessarily mean a drama – with some songs or musical patterns. It has to focus on certain genres of music, centering on which the story moves to its end. Characters need to be developed in the backdrop of that genre. Dialogue must be intertwined with the tone of that music. Writing the script for a musical play is a challenging task as far as the contemporary theatre movement is concerned.

The development of the contemporary theatre movement ran parallel to the Indian Freedom Movement. Like other forms of art, such as painting, literature and cinema, this too, was defined and shaped by nationalistic imperatives. It emerged basically as a medium of political resistance,

through which it could assert a national Indian identity in very palpable cultural terms. At the same time, theatre also closely reflected the changes and upheavals of a society moving from

Hilol Kumar Pathak



tradition to modernity. Here, the production *Moishal* is a fine blending of tradition and modernity.

Moishal is the life of a cattleman fighting his way through the hardships faced by him as he lives a lonely nomadic life, travelling across forests and grasslands herding his buffaloes month after month. He has left

behind his lonely wife and his little daughter, who struggle hard to survive. Meanwhile, a conniving landlord tries to create problems. The story moves on with some melodramatic *Goalpariya Lokageet* of buffalo grazers and *mahouts*.

The practice of singing *Goalpariya Lokageet* is found only in certain rural pockets. In this respect, the Panchasur group deserves credit for producing a folk musical drama around it. Established in the

ments of Assam. The people behind this mission are Probin Saikia and his wife Rosmi Rekha Saikia.

Chetana Das and Manisha Ragini, the actresses, have done really well in portraying their characters. Monuram Saikia, Jitu Gohain, Goutom Gogoi, Abhijeet Changmai, Hirak Jyoti Borah, Mridul Pal, Mirimlesh Choudhury, Chandan Rabha, Niyar Saikia, Pratiksha Borgohain and Haraswati Mess are the other artists on stage. The play was performed at the Madhabdev International Auditorium of the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, Guwahati, last month, as a tribute to Bhupen Hazarika and Pratima Pandey.

An organic sense of rhythm and musicality resonated through the play. Theatre is transformed into a space where the being of the actor incarnates resistance. The organic encounter between the actor and spectator illustrates the efficacy of theatre in creating perceptions in the spectator that lie between experience and reflection. A folk tradition to be incorporated in a play of modern taste needs to be vivid in the taste and fervour of theatre. *Moishal* is an effort to make a tradition vibrant, and in doing so, there were some limitations. But in spite of the thorns, there were roses that bloomed on that musical night.

Neither CinemaScope, its later development CinemaScope 55, nor any of its variants survived in the wake of other wide-screen systems, although Super-Panavision 70 was used to brilliant effect for *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962), directed by David Lean. VistaVision, which was less wide than CinemaScope, used two 35-mm frames instead of one and was introduced by Paramount in *White Christmas* in 1954.

E-mail your questions with answers at: coloseum@assamtribune.com.

harmonisers

From Adish Agarwalla, Moronhat –

- 2) Which Mughal empress consort was the only one to have her name embossed on silver coins?
- 3) The Gandhara and Mathura school of Art developed during the reign of which ruler?
- 4) The Gupta worshipped him as Skanda and the southern Chaulukyas as Subramanya. Who is this son of Lord Shiva better known as?
- 5) To which State of India does the breed dog 'Chippiparai' belong?

the colosseum

■ Neelopal Deka

side screen

- 1) Picture Clue: This is the old logo of a web browser. Just name the browser. (Hirak Jyoti Lahan, Gohpur)



unities

- From Adish Agarwalla, Moronhat –
- 6) Name the first person from Assam to be nominated as a jury member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Art and Science.
 - 7) Name the recently released Bollywood film, which has a full-length Assamese song named *Jirijiri nai hapobar bhubute*.
 - 8) Name the Assamese movie which recently won the Best Foreign Film Award at the Hollywood International Cinefest 2017.

do-re-me

- 9) In 1964, when Pope Paul VI came to India, he gave his ceremonial throne to this lady who was born in Skopje, in 1910. Who was this well-known lady? (Adish Agarwalla, Moronhat)
- 10) Which Indian State capital gets its name from

- 11) Mozilla Firefox 2) Nur Jahan 3) Koninkha 4) Kartikaya 5) Tamil Nadu 6) Amitabh Bachchan 7) A Death in the Gunpowder Fields 8) Mother Teresa 10) Shimla 11) John Lennon 12) A Mouthful of Sky (1995) 13) Bung 14) Onami 15) Satyajit Ray.

BOOKSHELF

Dalliance with science

Bhaskar Phukan

The book under review – *No Matter*, is the English translation of the original Assamese, *A-Padartha* (non-matter), a short and compact work of science fiction penned by the legendary Navakanta Barua. The poet-litterateur Navakanta Barua had himself in the preface to the original Assamese mentioned that the book was the result of his dalliance with science, and the unfamiliar domain restricted his movements in the way of producing a 'science fiction' of sorts. Basically a man of poetry who also held his sway over varied genres of prose. *No Matter*, his only science fiction, has a strictly human vantage as pointed out by Pradip Acharya in the 'Introduction' to the English edition.

The story is about a gifted surgeon Dr Sudhil Chaliba and his enthusiastic assistant Dr Anjan Chaudhury who are in a dream mission or a dream project of bloodless surgery. It is while pursuing this mission that the two doctors arrive at a point where they invent a way through which bloodless surgery could be made possible.

The author appears at ease in the world of science from the way he carries the story forward. He has knowledge of nuclear science, has basic idea about research works done in the matter of radiant energy, and also has good knowledge about the functioning of a computer.

Again, the psychology of rivalry and competition between the two scientists too is well-narrated, with the mention of a diary in which the progress of the combined research efforts of the two were recorded and which was kept away from the access of the senior researcher by the overzealous junior.

The only science fiction work coming from the doyen of modern Assamese poetry comes as nothing less than a very pleasant surprise. This less publicised area of Navakanta Barua's work on science is a welcome discovery. The translation by Ra Acharya and Joyee Das (the former being Navakanta Barua's grandson) is with a rhythmic flow of expression and is perfect in the use of words in furthering the narrative. The quality of production by Papyrus is in keeping with the standard expected.



A-Padartha

Navakanta Barua,
Translated by Ra Acharya and Joyee Das,
Papyrus, Guwahati,
Price: Rs 150/-

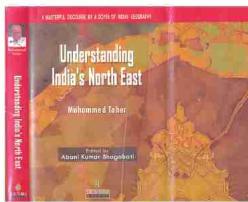
An earnest effort

Champak Sarmah

Geography is a lively subject and late Professor Mohammad Taher was an exponent of this area of study. During his lifetime, he wrote more than 60 research papers and books, including both textbooks and volumes that covered other subjects. An enormous portion of his research covered the entire North-East India. As his areas of interest include social geography, historical geography, regional geography and geomorphology, he tried to cover all the fields from the geographic point of view in his research papers.

Recently, Rasmu Publications, a premiere publication house, has published 30 of late Professor Taher's research papers covering almost every part of North-East India, titled *Understanding India's North East*. This book is edited by another renowned geographer and Professor Abani Kumar Bhagabati. This well-edited volume covers almost all physiographic, geographic, demographic, ethnic, as well as some economic and environmental issues of the area, which can provide basic knowledge about the region. The book contains a valuable article on the river systems and their environmental impact on the region. Late Professor Taher's study also covered tribal people, ethnic situation and insurGENCY of the region. These articles can provide valuable inputs for making special plans for the tribal and ethnic inhabitants of this region. Non-dominant groups and their problems, too, have found their due place in his research. An article focuses on the problems and potentialities of transport and communication in the hills of the region. The article titled *Role of Geographers in the Development of North East India* throws light on his feeling of responsibility for the development of the region. The article *Line System of Assam: Implications and Consequences* adds some historical value to the book. There are seven area-based articles covering the entire Kamrup district, Guwahati, Lakhimpur, Goalpara, Darrang and Nagaon. These articles can only not give geographical information, but also throw special focus on the historical background of the subjects. The article titled *Duars of Assam: A Probe in Historical Geography* too carries some irrefutable proof regarding the proximity between history and geography as subjects.

For the students, these articles will provide new pathways leading to the elaborate study and development of the area. The book will immensely help the policymakers to formulate region and tribe-based policies.



Understanding India's North East

Lt Prof. Mohammed Taher,
Edited by: Abani Kumar Bhagabati,
Rasmu Prakas,
Price: Rs 1250/-

'Shyamala', another name for Goddess Kali? (Smita Sarma, Khanapara, Guwahati)

11) Which Beatles member was shot and killed on December 8, 1980, in New York City? (Saddi Hussain Laskar, Guwahati)

12) Written by novelist Ashok Banker, this was the first English serial to be aired on Doordarshan. Just name the serial. (Sangeeta Roy, Dispur College, Guwahati)

13) In the *Wizard of Id* comic strip, what is the name of the King's court jester? (Suman Das, Gauhati)

14) What festival in southern India celebrates the golden age of the mythical king Mahabali? (Adish Agarwalla, Moronhat)

15) Who was the music director of Merchant Ivory's "Shakespearewallah"? (Adish Agarwalla, Moronhat)

crescendo

1) Mozilla Firefox 2) Nur Jahan 3) Koninkha 4) Kartikaya 5) Tamil Nadu 6) Amitabh Bachchan 7) A Death in the Gunpowder Fields 8) Mother Teresa 10) Shimla 11) John Lennon 12) A Mouthful of Sky (1995) 13) Bung 14) Onami 15) Satyajit Ray.

SBI for faster resolution of bad debts

NEW DELHI, July 14: Unhappy with the pace of resolution of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), especially with the Essar Steel case in the court, a top SBI official today said the process should be faster as delays lead to further losses.

"Resolution should be faster than this. The more you delay, more is the loss of economic value, which is in nobody's interest. Let's find out to what level the debt can be sustained or not sustained and if the company needs to go into liquidation, we need to do that," State Bank of India Managing Director Rajnish Kumar told BTVI in an interview.

Rajnish Kumar hoped that the Gu-

jard High Court will decide quickly on the Essar Steel case. "Delaying the process is in nobody's interest. We will only pray that the court decides on the matter quickly and settles the law."

Essar Steel, one of the 12 large NPAs identified by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), had approached the High Court for putting on hold the RBI proceedings, contending that the same were arbitrary.

Making the insolvency proceedings against Essar inoperative until July 12, the court asked the RBI to amend its order that the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) would give priority to the cases identified, which the apex bank complied to.

The High Court on Thursday directed for placing on record before it an RBI directive to a SBI-led consortium of lenders to initiate insolvency proceedings against Essar Steel.

The company has told the court that it was kept in the dark about the insolvency proceedings when the company was in a restructuring mode, a claim disputed by the banks.

"Since the case is in the court and if the company has sought legal remedy, the court will decide and give judgement quickly. This is a new law; interpretations around the law, and the ecosystem – everything is in development stage," the SBI officer said.

The Government, through an ordinance, had vested the power in RBI to direct banks to initiate insolvency proceedings against the top bad debt accounts.

The RBI's IAC (Internal Advisory Committee) has chosen top 12 NPA accounts for insolvency which has outstanding debt of above Rs 5,000 crore, Essar Steel being one of them.

Essar Steel had a debt of Rs 45,655 crore, of which Rs 31,671 crore had turned NPAs for banks by March 31, 2016. This increased to Rs 32,864 crore by March 31 this year.

Not blaming the law for the delay in resolution, Rajnish Kumar said it was much needed. "Giving the role to the regulator itself (RBI) was an extraordinary step. Somebody has to decide and give the push, and guide the process."

Since the NPA situation had reached an extraordinarily high level, the "extraordinary step" in the form of the ordinance was required from the government, he added.

"In a capitalist society, if you do not have a proper insolvency law, the system cannot work. Not all corporates can survive – it is the survival of the fittest. And the one who cannot survive, there has to be an exit route. And the law precisely does that. I am sure they (corporates) can seek protection under the law. It provides time to work out the resolution with all the creditors," he said. – IANS

CAPSULE

Yes Bank

NEW DELHI, July 14: Private sector Yes Bank has received another round of USD 150 million funding from the US Government and Wells Fargo to fund SME lending. – PTI

Reliance Cap

NEW DELHI, July 14: Reliance Capital said it has received Rs 378 crore from Oppo Life Insurance after the Japanese firm increased its stake in their asset management business to 49 per cent. – PTI

Supreme Infra

NEW DELHI, July 14: Supreme Infrastructure said the Oversight Committee (OC) has approved a proposal for resolution of its Rs 2,410 crore debt under the S4A scheme of the Reserve Bank of India. – PTI

JSW Energy

NEW DELHI, July 14: Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Energy is exploring new opportunities in renewable energy space and transmission and distribution segments, the company said in its annual report 2016-17. – PTI

Idea Cellular

NEW DELHI, July 14: Markets regulator Sebi is considering if the proposed merger of Airtel India Group and Idea Cellular with Vodafone Plc's India unit will trigger an open offer, sources said. – PTI

Forevermark

KOLKATA, July 14: The country's second exclusive store for Forevermark diamonds will come up in the city by the festive season. – PTI

Vista Pharma

NEW DELHI, July 14: Vista Pharmaceuticals said it is addressing all the issues raised by the US health regulator in a warning letter to the company for its Nalgonda facility in Telangana. – PTI

Essar Oil

NEW DELHI, July 14: Billionaire Rui brothers-owned Essar Oil (UK) said it has won a contract to sell jet fuel (ATJ) directly to Etihad Airways at Manchester Airport. – PTI

Kwality Ltd

NEW DELHI, July 14: Markets regulator Sebi is investigating if the total purchase of Rs 12 lakh on Kwality Ltd and its five promoters for allegedly violating disclosure norms. – PTI

Force Motors

GUWAHATI, July 14: Pune-based automotive manufacturer Force Motors today announced its principle sponsorship for Team Puneri Paltan for Season 5 of the pro-Kabaddi league, a press release received here stated.



Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Radha Mohan Singh addressing a national summit on 'Smart Agriculture Marketing Solutions - To Double Farmers' Income' in New Delhi on Friday. - UNI

Jaitley reviews NIIIF performance

NEW DELHI, July 14: Finance Minister Arun Jaitley today reviewed the performance of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIIF) and various steps being taken by India's first sovereign fund to promote infra development.

During the meeting attended by the board, it was informed that steady progress of fund-raising efforts with several international institutional investors as well as following-up on MoUs signed by the Government have been made, the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

The first fund raising by NIIIF is expected to close soon, it added. NIIIF informed the minister that a strong investment pipeline is under consideration for the roads, ports, aviation and power sectors.

With 49 per cent equity participation from the Government, the remaining comes from the private sector. The Centre is committed to invest Rs 20,000 crore in the NIIIF. – PTI

Infy wipes out early gains

NEW DELHI, July 14: Shares of Infosys erased all its early gains and ended 0.5 per cent lower today even after the company reported better-than-expected 1.3 per cent rise in June quarter net profit.

The stock witnesses late sell-off and ended the day at Rs 972.05, down 0.44 per cent on BSE. During the day, the stock had gained 3.10 per cent to Rs 1,006.65.

At NSE, shares of the company slipped 0.51 per cent to close at Rs 972.05.

In terms of volume, 6.85 lakh shares of the company were traded on BSE, and over one crore shares changed hands at NSE during the day.

Selling pressure was also

seen in other IT stocks, with TCS falling 1.85 per cent, Wipro (1.78 per cent), HCL Tech (0.87 per cent) and Tech Mahindra (0.41 per cent).

The BSE IT index ended 0.95 per cent lower at 10,651.60.

Infosys, India's second-biggest software services exporter, today reported better-than-expected 1.3 per cent rise in its June quarter net profit on winning key clients in North America and Europe and raised its annual US dollar revenue outlook.

Net profit in April-June 2017-18 at Rs 3,483 crore, or Rs 15.24 per share, was 1.3 per cent higher than Rs 4,346 crore (Rs 15.03 a share) in the same period a year ago. – PTI

Food prices pull nation's WPI inflation lower

NEW DELHI, July 14: A massive contraction in food prices dragged down India's annual rate of inflation based on wholesale prices to extremely low levels in June, official data showed today, adding to the clamour for an RBI rate cut.

According to data from the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the wholesale price index (WPI), which was revised in June from 2004-05 to 2011-12, does not include indirect taxes, thus decreasing volatility in inflation at wholesale levels.

On a year-on-year (YoY) basis, expenses on primary articles, which constitute 22.62 per cent of the WPI's total weightage, declined by (-)3.86 per cent as compared to a rise of 5.68 per cent during the same month a year ago.

The prices of food articles slipped by (-)3.47 per cent during the month under review.

The wholesale inflation rate for onion was lower year-on-year by (-)9.47 per cent, while that for potatoes plunged by (-)47.32 per cent. – IANS



Mahindra and Mahindra Senior General Manager (Sales – Commercial Vehicles), Rajesh Gupta launching the Feeto minivan in Chandigarh on Friday. - UNI

India to set up mechanism for EU investment

NEW DELHI, July 14: India and the European Union have decided to set up a mechanism to facilitate EU investments into the country, the Commerce and Industry ministry said today.

The Investment Facilitation Mechanism (IFM) will allow for a close coordination between the EU and India with an aim to promote and facilitate investment in India, the ministry said in a statement.

As part of the IFM, an EU delegation to India and the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) agreed to hold regular high-level meetings to assess and facilitate ease of doing business for EU investors in India.

"This will include identifying and

putting in place solutions to procedural impediments faced by EU companies and investors in establishing or running their operations in India," it added.

Commenting on this initiative, Tomasz Koslowski, Ambassador of the European Union to India said, "establishment of the IFM is a right step in the direction of strengthening trade and investment ties between the EU and India".

The EU is the largest foreign investor in India and this initiative helps ensure a more robust, effective and predictable investment environment for the European investors, it added.

DIPP Secretary Ramesh Abhishek said ease of doing business is a fundamental priority under the Make in In-

dia campaign and establishment of IFM for facilitating EU investments in India is another step to achieve this goal.

"The IFM has been established with the key objectives of paving the way for identifying and solving problems faced by EU companies and investors with regard to their operations in India, he said.

The IFM will cover new investors as well as those already established in India, he added.

The new mechanism, he said, is also going to serve as a platform for discussing general suggestions from the point of view of EU companies and investors with regard to ease of doing business in India, "which I am sure,

would boost and encourage the EU investors to avail investment opportunities available in India".

Invest India, the official investment promotion and facilitation agency of the Government, will also be part of the mechanism. It will create a single-win entry point for EU companies that need assistance for their investments at the Central or State level.

The IFM will also facilitate participation of other relevant ministries and authorities in a case-to-case basis.

The EU is one of the biggest source of foreign investment in India with a stock exceeding USD 81.52 billion (more than 4.4 lakh crores INR) as on March 2017. – PTI

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Invest India, the official investment promotion and facilitation agency of the Government, will also be part of the mechanism. It will create a single-win entry point for EU companies that need assistance for their investments at the Central or State level.

The IFM will also facilitate participation of other relevant ministries and authorities in a case-to-case basis.

The EU is one of the biggest source of foreign investment in India with a stock exceeding USD 81.52 billion (more than 4.4 lakh crores INR) as on March 2017. – PTI

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3,500 child porn sites blocked

NEW DELHI, July 14: The Centre today told the Supreme Court that it is taking steps to deal with the issue of child pornography in its entirety and around 3,500 websites hosting such content were blocked last month.

The Government told a three-judge bench headed by Justice Dipak Misra that it has asked the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to consider installation of jammers in schools to block access to child pornographic content. — PTI

NO.SSK/SSIA/CH/74/2017/2681 Dated Guwahati the, 14th July, 2017

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Quotations are invited in plain paper from reputed Restaurant or Hotel/Food Catering Services having a minimum of 25 years (eight and passes twenty five) only having experience and reputation in the trade of running hotels and restaurants to set up a cafeteria cum restaurant in Srimanta Sankaradeva International Auditorium of Kalakshetra. Details paper may be obtained from the office of Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra Society during office hours against a non-refundable fee of Rs. 200/- (Rupees two hundred only) from 18th July, 2017 till the last date of submission of quotation is 20th July, 2017 up to 3 PM and same will be opened on same day at 3:30 PM.

The Kalakshetra authority has reserved the right to reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra Auditorium
Panjabari, Guwahati-781037.
Janasanayog/856/17

Pro-Gorkhaland agitators resort to arson in Darjeeling

DARJEELING/NEW DELHI, July 14: The pro-Gorkhaland agitators again went on rampage today on the 30th day of the indefinite shutdown in the Darjeeling hills, setting afire an RPF office, a State-run library and a police outpost here amid unabated violence.

The agitators set afame a

Railway Protection Force (RPF) office in Kurseong and a police outpost in Sukhipokhri in the wee hours today, the police said. A State-run library in Mirik subdivision, too, was set ablaze last night by Gorkhaland supporters. The library was reduced to ashes, the shutdown in

The hills witnessed violence despite continued deployment of three columns of the Army in Darjeeling, Kalimpang and Sonada. The security forces maintained a close vigil at all police stations, camps and outposts besides the entry and exit routes to prevent attacks by pro-Gorkhaland agitators, official sources said.

With food supply severely hit due to the indefinite strike, which entered the 30th day today, the GJM and various NGOs of the hills distributed food items among people. "Until we get Gorkhaland, the shutdown in

the hills will continue," a senior GJM leader said.

Barring medicine outlets, all shops, schools and colleges have remained closed with Internet services too staying suspended for the 27th day today. The picturesque hill station had earlier witnessed a 40-day bandh in 1988 and a 44-day shutdown in 2013.

Meanwhile, the Centre told the Supreme Court that it was deploying four additional companies of the CRPF to maintain law and order in Darjeeling and Kalimpong, which have been hit by the agitation for a separate Gorkhaland. — PTI

'Lalu can break JD(U) to form Govt'

NEW DELHI, July 14: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar should take a decision on his association with RJD "at the earliest" as Lalu Prasad Yadav can break the JD(U) to form a government of his own, Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan said today.

The ruling alliance in Bihar has taken a hit after Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, Deputy Chief Minister and Lalu Prasad's son, was booked in a graft case. The ruling JD(U) has asked the embattled Deputy Chief Minister to "come out with facts in public" on the JD(U)-RJD alliance at the earliest, otherwise Lalu Prasad Yadav is capable of split-

ting the JD(U) and can easily form a government on his own," Paswan said. The Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister alleged that Nitish was delaying his decision by adopting various tactics. — PTI

TENDER NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Sealed tender affixing non refundable Court Fee Stamps of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and paisa twenty five) only is invited from the reputed registered Company or Partnership Firm with sound financial background and good track record for supply of Stationeries/miscellaneous items in the Office of the Director of Social Welfare, Assam. The Company or Partnership Firm should have been listed issued by any State or Central Government and should have valid Sale Tax, Income Tax Return etc. for supply of stationery items as per Annexure A.

Interested tenderers should quote their rates to the office of the undersigned within 30 (thirty) days from the date of publication of this notice in the National Herald, dated 14th Aug. 2017 upto 12:00 noon and will be opened on the same day at 1:00 PM in presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives. Details may be seen in the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Director,
Social Welfare, Assam
Uzanbar, Guwahati-1

ADVERTISEMENT

Application are invited in Standard Application Form along with all supporting documents and enclosed sheet giving the following details from the candidates willing to work on Contractual Basis for the following posts in the Darrang District, Assam:

Graduation Details			
Course	University	Year of Graduation	% of Marks
Office experience			
Organization	Position	Period of work	Duration of work (Years & Month)
Total			

Selection of eligible candidates will be based on performance in Graduation examination and length of experience of office work.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all applications without assigning any reasons thereof.

1. Name of the post: District Coordinator for Assam Clinical Establishment

Post No: 1 (one).

Eligibility

MBBS or BDS/BAMS/BHMS provided there is significant presence of these in the districts.

Desirable:

• Basic knowledge of Computers and able to work on MS Office

• Experience of working in Government/National Health Programme.

• Essential:

• Experience of developing/implementing hospital/health care standards.

• Experience of working in an organization for developing and operating accreditation structure in the country e.g. NABH, NABL etc.

• Age : Upto 63 years

Remuneration: Rs. 30,000/- per month

2. Name of post: Administrative Assistant cum Data Entry Operator for Assam Establishment (District) Director post.

Essential:

• Graduate in any field and should have English as subject in intermediate (10+2) level.

• Adequate knowledge in Computer Application from Government recognised Institute.

Desirable:

• Minimum Typing speed of 40 words per minute.

• Experience of office work.

• Age : Up to 43 years

Remuneration: Rs. 10,000 per months

Applications should be submitted with in 7 days from the date of advertisement at the Office of the Jt. Director of Health Services, Darrag, Margadai.

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner cum Chairperson

DRA for Clinical Establishment

Darrag, Assam

Janasanayog/519/17

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION, ASSAM

No. NHM/NCD/NDP/2016-17/1133/8238
Guwahati the 14.07.2017

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

E-Tender for establishing Dialysis Unit in PPP mode at District Hospitals.

Certain terms & conditions incorporated in the Tender No:NHM/NCD/NDP/2016-17/1133/3796, dated: 01.06.2017 for establishing Dialysis Unit in PPP mode at District Hospitals has been amended. The details of amendments can be obtained from the website: www.nhmassam.in which should be taken note of prior to submission of bids. All other terms and conditions of the tender referred to above shall remain unchanged.

Sd/- Mission Director
National Health Mission, Assam.

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION, ASSAM

No. NHM/200 Bedded Dist Hospital/Kamrup(Amringaon)/S09/07/P/102
Dated Ghy the 14th July 2017

EXTENSION NOTICE

The BID process for the work "Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Testing of 100KVA Diesel Generator Set at Tolaram Bafna Civil Hospital in Kamrup District under NHM, Assam, issued vide this office letter No. NHM/200 Bedded Dist Hospital/Kamrup(Amringaon)/S09/07/P/102, Dated Ghy the 7th July 2017 is extended as follows:

- Date of Issue of Bid Document extended upto: 20/07/2017
- Submission of Bid: 21/07/2017 at 14:00 hrs.
- Opening of Bid: 21/07/2017 at 16:30 hrs.
- The bids submitted earlier will be considered in the above bid process.
- All other terms and conditions will remain same.

Sd/- Mission Director
National Health Mission, Assam

Govt briefs Opp leaders on China stand-off, Kashmir

NEW DELHI, July 14: Top

Central ministers and officials to-

day briefed Opposition leaders,

including from the Congress,

Left and SP on the stand-off with

China and the situation in Kash-

mir and the government action,

officials said.

Those who attended the

meeting – considered an effort

to build consensus on dealings

with India's biggest neighbour

and Kashmir – include Ghulam

Nabi Azad, Mallikarjun Kharge

(Congress), Sitaram Yechury

(CPI-M), Mulayam Singh Ya-

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Vilas Paswan (LJP), Tariq An-

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Tyagi (JD-U) and Derek

were told about the prevailing

situation along the Sino-Indian border and Jammu and Kash-

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New Delhi has expressed concern over China trying to change the status quo at the India-Bhutan-Tibet tri-junction in the Dokola area of Sikkim.

In Jammu and Kashmir, sev-

eral pilgrims were killed by mil-

itants in Anantnag district while

returning from the Amarnath cave shrine on Monday.

Four districts of the State –

Pulwama, Kulgam, Shopian and

Anantnag – have been on the boil

since the killing of Hizbul Muj-

ideen commander Burhan

Wani in an encounter with secu-

rity forces on July 8, 2016. — PTI

MUMBAI, July 14: A defamation case was

today registered against comedy group All

India Bakchod (AIB) for allegedly posting an

"obscene"

picture of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi on Twitter.

AIB had yesterday tweeted a picture of

Modi look-alike peering into his mobile

phone at a railway station alongside an ac-

tual photograph of the PM, with props super-

imposed with the help of Snapchat's dog

filter, an app. The dog filter is a special ef-

fects application which allows users to add

a dog's nose, ears and tongue over their

faces while taking a selfie or on other photo-

graphs.

The post had a hashtag that apparently re-

ferred to Modi's frequent foreign visits. A

Twitter user, Reetesh Maheshwari, drew the

Mumbai Police's attention towards it and de-

manded action. The police forwarded this

tweet to the Cyber Police Station, which regis-

tered an FIR.

"After legal consultations, an offence was

registered against AIB and further probe is on," said Mumbai Police spokesperson DCP

Rashmi Karandikar. — PTI

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Four districts of the State –



Celestial discovery

Indian astronomers find 'Saraswati' – a supercluster of galaxies – 4,000 million light years away from the Earth

A team of Indian astronomers has discovered an extremely large supercluster of galaxies – as big as 20 million billion suns – which they have named Saraswati, the Pune-based Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) has said.

This is one of the largest known structures in the neighbourhood of the universe, 4,000 million light years away from the Earth and roughly more than 10 billion years old, the IUCAA said. Its mass extends over the scale of 600 million light years, it said. Scientists of this institute were also involved in the path-breaking discovery of gravitational waves last year.

The supercluster was discovered by Joydeep Bagchi, a faculty member from IUCAA; Shishir Sankhyayan, a PhD student at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune; Prakash Sarkar of the National Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur; Somay Raychaudhury, Director IUCAA; Joe Jacob of the Newman College, Kerala; and Pratik Dabholak, IUCAA research fellow.

Their findings were published in the latest issue of *The Astrophysical Journal*, the premier research journal of the American Astronomical Society.

"Superclusters are the largest coherent structures in the cosmic web. They are a chain of galaxies and galaxy clusters, bound by gravity, often stretching to several hundred times the size of clusters of galaxies, consisting of tens of thou-

sands of galaxies," the IUCAA said in a statement.

Sankhyayan said this "newly-discovered Saraswati supercluster" extends over a scale of 600 million light years and may contain the mass equivalent of over 20 million billion suns.

A cluster could roughly have galaxies ranging from 1,000 to 10,000. A supercluster could have clusters ranging from 40 to 43, he added. "Our own galaxy is part of a supercluster called the Laniakea supercluster," the IUCAA said.

Bagchi from the IUCAA, the lead author of the paper in the journal, and co-author Sankhyayan said they were "astonished to spot this giant wall-like supercluster of galaxies," visible in a large spectroscopic survey of distant galaxies, known as the Sloan Digital Sky Survey.

Sankhyayan said the data was then analysed, following which the discovery was made.

"This supercluster is clearly embedded in a large network of cosmic filaments traced by clusters and large voids," Bagchi said.

He added previously "only a few comparatively large superclusters" had been reported, such as the Shapley Concentration or the Sloan Great Wall in the nearby universe. "The Saraswati supercluster is far more distant," Bagchi said.

The two hoped that the work would help shed light on "perplexing questions" like how such matter density clusters had been formed billions of years ago. — PTI

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, July 15, 2017:

This year you often run around a lot. You work through tension by partaking in physical activity. You often sabotage your own choices. You also tend to say one thing, yet do another. If this behavior continues, you will need to make sure that you form a stronger bond with you. You might dash a lot until you find someone who can relate to you well. If you are attached, your significant other learns how to deal with this confusion by recognizing both your actions and your thoughts are authentic. ARIES provokes a strong reaction from you.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Good; 4-Possible; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Bad.

Astrology (March 21-April 19)

***** You are known for your explosive temper, but your softer emotions seem to emerge rather easily right now. Your ability to verbalize more with a loved one is emphasized. Reach out to someone wiser than you for some feedback. Tonight: You are the leader of the gang.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

***** Don't let your worry over money have the energy to bring a matter to completion. When tackling your to-do's, you will clear out most of them. A naturally optimistic attitude could encourage indulgence, but if it's from a loved one, Tonight: Relax wherever you are.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

***** A new romance is heating up, even if you have been with the other person for years. If you are single, give yourself time to see what develops. Younger people and children seem to be full of energy, and they want your time and attention. Tonight: Frolic the night away.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

***** You might want to get past a personal matter that has been going on for a while. Make an effort to get past any resentment you've been feeling. Once you start sharing more with a loved one, you'll understand your interaction much better. Tonight: At home. Invite friends over.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

***** Recognize how easily you lose your self-discipline, especially when you meet up with friends. You will embrace the more relaxed atmosphere of the weekend. You have a lot to share, as do others. You might not believe how much chatter surrounds you. Tonight: Catch up with old pals.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** You can't seem to trim your budget at this point. Sometime within the next few days, you will realize what is not particularly relevant as far as your spending goes. Go off and have a good time.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

***** You could be overwhelmed by everything you have to do. Your plate is full, but you would not have it any other way. Your energy and charisma soar after an intense weekend. Your pop-up social calendar is as full as it gets. Tonight: Listen to a friend's or loved one's wishes.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** Focus your energy on exercise and meditation. You might not be able to process all of your feelings just yet, but you can keep a diary in order to get a better perspective of your inner thoughts. Consider doing some volunteer work to soothe your nerves. Tonight: Accept an offer.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

***** You tend to act as if you don't have a care in the world. A loved one smiles as he or she witnesses some of your pep return. You might be off on an adventure before you know it. Tonight: Live it up!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** You are still talking about with friends and loved ones. Today you may slow down. Many of you will invite others over for some kind of low-key get-together. You have more than enough energy to play the role of host or hostess. Tonight: Happiest at home.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

***** Your opinions would change about a decision or a purchase as you get the facts and figures that are relevant to this matter. Know that an immediate decision can be postponed, but not for long. Talk to someone whose opinions you respect. Tonight: Make it your treat.

Thought for the day

Now he belongs to the ages.
— EDWIN McMasters STANTON

Entertainment		Movies	
Kids	Entertainment	Zcafe	SONY
CN	16:00 Arunachal	13:00 The Mystery of Laura	16:15 Monday
colors	16:00 Mori Durga	14:00 Top 20 Funniest	16:42 Movie
Rollin'	16:30 Ye Ha Moshabazar	17:00 Two Men	18:54 Movie
Baaghi	17:00 TEC	18:00 Super Girl	20:00 Movie
Boat	17:30 TEC	19:00 Love Story	22:30 Movie
Telephong	18:00 Devanshi	20:00 America's Got Talent	22:48 Underworld: Evolution
	18:30 Saurabh Singh Ko	21:00 Reign	
	20:00 Eshaan Prem Ghosh	22:00 House of Cards	
	21:00 India Bananchi	22:30 Li'l Champs	
	22:30 TEC	23:00 Li'l Champs	
	23:00 Telephong	23:30 Li'l Champs	
		14:00 The Kapil Sharma Show	Star Trek Beyond
		20:00 CID	WB
		21:00 Kapil Sharma Show	21:00 Star Trek Beyond
		22:30 Crime Patrol - Satark	
		14:00 The Kapil Sharma Show	13:35 Kabali
		20:00 CID	14:00 Kabali
		21:00 Kapil Sharma Show	14:30 Kabali
		22:30 Crime Patrol - Satark	15:00 Kabali
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			14:00 Meet the Parents
			16:00 Spy Kids
			18:00 Toy Story
			20:00 I Spy
			22:00 Star Trek Beyond
			24:00 Day of Thunder
		07:00 Breakfast Live	SONY
		08:00 Good Morning	ESPN
		09:00 Good morning Assam	18
		10:00 News Bulletin	07:00 News
		11:00 The Story Of God With	08:00 News
		12:00 Do Or Die	09:00 News
		13:00 Big Cat Week	10:00 News
		14:00 Animal Planet	11:00 News
		15:00 Discovery	12:00 News
		16:00 Animal Fight Club	13:00 News
		17:00 Discovery	14:00 News
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Candles are formed in the shape of a heart during a vigil for Chinese Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo outside China's consulate in Sydney, Australia on Friday. - UNI

Chinese censors scrub emoji tributes to Nobel winner

BEIJING, July 14: China's censors raced today to scrub social media networks of candles, RIP and other tributes to Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo as they seek to silence discussion about the prominent dissident's death.

The 61-year-old democracy activist died yesterday from liver cancer while under heavy police guard at a hospital in the northeastern city of Shenyang—but most Chinese remain clueless about his death or even who he was.

A search for news of his death on Chinese search engine Baidu turned up no results and China's Twitter-like Weibo blocked the use of this name and initials "LXB".

Even the most obscure homages to Liu on Weibo were removed.

One user who posted "RIP" was advised it had been deleted "because it violated relevant laws and regulations"—even though the post did not mention the activist by name.

RIP is now among the search terms blocked on Chinese social media networks.

Grieving users who had posted candle emojis on Weibo saw them erased. When accessing Weibo on a personal computer the symbol is no longer among the emoticon options.

On the Weibo mobile app, however, the candle was still available but attempts to post it were blocked and triggered a message saying "content is illegal". - AFP

Beijing faces backlash after dissident Liu Xiaobo dies in custody

SHENYANG (China), July 14: China's Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo died after losing his battle with terminal cancer, remaining in custody under guard in hospital until his last breath as Beijing faced a wave of criticism over its treatment of the Tiananmen Square protest veteran.

China bears a "heavy responsibility" for the death of Liu, the Nobel Committee said yesterday, less than two months after the 61-year-old was transferred to hospital from prison.

International human rights groups, Western governments and Chinese activists had urged authorities to free Liu and grant his final wish to be treated outside prison to a hospital in the northeastern city of Shenyang.

Liu's widow, who had been held by the Nazis.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson called on China to free Liu's widow, who has been under house arrest since 2010 but was allowed to be at the hospital as he said his final goodbye.

Liu's death puts China in dubious company as he became the first Nobel Peace laureate to die in custody since German pacifist Carl von Ossietzky in 1938, who had been held by the Nazis. Liu's widow, who has been under house arrest since 2010 but was allowed to be at the hospital as he said his final goodbye.

Liu's death puts China in dubious company as he became the first



China under pressure to free dissident's widow

SHENYANG (China), July 14: China faced international calls today to free the widow of Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo after global condemnation over the Communist regime's refusal to grant the democracy champion's dying wish to leave the country.

The United States and the European Union urged President Xi Jinping's government to let Liu's widow Lin Xia, who was born under house arrest since 2010, leave the country.

Chinese doctors said she was by her husband's side when he lost his battle with liver cancer yesterday at age 61, more than a month after he was transferred from prison to a hospital in the northeastern city of Shenyang.

Liu's widow, who had been held by the Nazis.

But authorities have restricted her contact with the outside world and her whereabouts were unknown following the death of her husband, a veteran of the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests whose advocacy for democracy informed the government.

"I call on the Chinese government to release Liu Xia from house arrest and allow her to depart China, according to her wishes," US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said. - AFP

India, Pak should resolve Kashmir issue through talks:UN chief

UNITED NATIONS, July 14: UN chief Antonio Guterres has reiterated the need for India and Pakistan to find a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue through engagement and dialogue, his spokesman said.

Guterres' spokesman Stephane Dujarric's remarks came when he was asked if the Secretary-General is paying attention to the situation in the region or "we are just waiting for some sort of big tragedy to occur for the Secretary-General to take attention."

"...We reiterate the need for the parties to find a peaceful solution through engagement and dialogue," Dujarric said at a daily press briefing here yesterday.

He said that "in terms of paying attention, I think the Secretary-General answered in his own words that question during the press conference."

Dujarric was referring to Guterres' first press conference at the world body's headquarters in June when he was asked whether he is engaged in bringing about dialogue between India and Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir dispute.

"Why do you think I met three times the Prime Minister of Pakistan and two times the Prime Minister of India," Dujarric had said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Guterres had met in St Petersburg earlier in June on the sidelines of the St Petersburg International Economic Forum. During the meeting, Modi had stressed on multilateralism to address global challenges such as terrorism.

"I call on the Chinese government to release Liu Xia from house arrest and allow her to depart China, according to her wishes," US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said. - PTI

'Al-Qaeda in Indian subcontinent getting more active'



By 2017, Al-Qaeda in the Indian subcontinent boasted several hundred members and had cells in Afghanistan's Helmand, Kandahar, Zabul, Paktika, Ghazni, and Nuristan provinces

WASHINGTON, July 14: Al-Qaeda is getting more active in the Indian subcontinent and by 2017, it boasted several hundred members, with its cells mostly in Afghanistan and its operations flourishing in Bangladesh, counter-terrorism experts have told the US lawmakers.

"By 2017, Al-Qaeda in the Indian subcontinent boasted several hundred members and had cells in Afghanistan's Helmand, Kandahar, Zabul, Paktika, Ghazni, and Nuristan provinces

tage of sanctuaries in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. "A new branch of al-Qaeda was established – Qaeda al-Jihad in the Indian subcontinent, seeking to raise the flag of jihad... and return the Islamic rule across the Indian subcontinent," al-Zawahiri had said.

The group was led by Asim Umar—an Indian and former member of Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami—a Taliban-based terrorist group with branches across the Indian subcontinent. Umar was flanked by Abu Zeid, his first deputy.

He was speaking during his Congressional testimony before the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence yesterday. This expansion, Jones said, may have been partly due to Taliban advances in Afghanistan and al-Qaeda's relationship with operations from the Taliban and other groups, such as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and Lashkar-e-Taiba. "Al-Qaeda operatives in Bangladesh were particularly active, conducting a range of attacks. In addition, al-Qaeda in the Indian subcontinent conducted a steady propaganda campaign from its media arm As-Sahab," he said.

However, the group conducted few attacks in Afghanistan or Pakistan and was largely irrelevant in the Taliban-led insurgency, Jones said. In September 2014, al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri had announced the creation of regional affiliate al-Qaeda in the Indian subcontinent, taking advan-

tage of sanctuaries in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. "A new branch of al-Qaeda was established – Qaeda al-Jihad in the Indian subcontinent, seeking to raise the flag of jihad... and return the Islamic rule across the Indian subcontinent," al-Zawahiri had said.

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In October 2015, US and Afghan forces targeted a large training camp in Kandahar Province, killing over one hundred operatives linked to al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, Rhodes said. According to Katherine Zimmerman, research fellow, American Enterprise Institute, the al-Qaeda presence in the Indian subcontinent remains weak after Ayman al-Zawahiri announced the launch of a new affiliate in September 2014. - PTI

প্রধানমন্ত্রী আরাম যোজনা

চেতাবনী সকলোৱে বাবে আৰামগৃহ



গুৱাহাটী পৌৰ নিগম এলেকাৰ বাসিন্দা, আপোনাৰ বাকু নিজা পকী ঘৰ আছেন?

যদি নাই তেন্তে আপোনাক গৃহ নিৰ্মাণ কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰে
১.৫ লাখৰ পৰা ২ লাখ টকা পৰ্যন্ত অনুদান প্ৰদান কৰিব



নাগৰিকসকলে আবেদন প্ৰ-পত্ৰ
পূৰণ কৰি যাবতীয় নথিপত্ৰৰ সৈতে
১৫ জুনীৰ পৰা ৩০ জুনীৰ ২০১৭ৰ
ভিতৰত জমা দিব পাৰিব।

তলত উল্লেখ কৰা কাৰ্য্যালয়সমূহত আবেদন পত্ৰ বিতৰণ আৰু জমা লোৱা হ'ব

- উপায়ুক্তৰ কাৰ্য্যালয়, পশ্চিম সংমতল, গুৱাহাটী পৌৰ নিগম, ভূতনাথ বাছানৰ সমীপত
- উপায়ুক্তৰ কাৰ্য্যালয়, দক্ষিণ সংমতল, গুৱাহাটী পৌৰ নিগম, উলুবুলী অশ্বম বোৰ সমীপত
- উপায়ুক্তৰ কাৰ্য্যালয়, পূৰ্ব সংমতল, গুৱাহাটী পৌৰ নিগম, জু-নোড তিনিআলি, ডাৰিন কেস্পাছৰ সমীপত
- ঘৰ্য সংমতল, গুৱাহাটী পৌৰ নিগম কাৰ্য্যালয়, লাখটকীয়া
- উপায়ুক্তৰ কাৰ্য্যালয়, দিছপুৰ সংমতল, গুৱাহাটী পৌৰ নিগম, চূপুৰ মাৰ্কেট, দিছপুৰ
- উপায়ুক্তৰ কাৰ্য্যালয়, লখৰা সংমতল, গুৱাহাটী পৌৰ নিগম, হোটেল ভাৰ্গৱৰ সমীপত

আবেদন পত্ৰ কেনেকৈ বিচাৰি পাৰ?

- আবেদন পত্ৰ-পত্ৰনথ পৌৰনিগমৰ লাখটকীয়া কাৰ্য্যালয়ত উপলব্ধ
- প্ৰিমেয়াইট বেচেটাইট www.pmayassam.inত উপলব্ধ
- প্ৰিমেয়াইট মোবাইল এপ PMAY-U Assam উপলব্ধ

অভিযান সঞ্চালকালয়, প্রধানমন্ত্রী আরাম যোজনা, সকলোৱে বাবে আৰামগৃহ (চেতাবনী)ৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰচাৰিত

সৱিশেষ জানিবলৈ যোগাযোগ কৰক

পি এম এ বাই কোষ

প্রধানমন্ত্রী আরাম যোজনা, সকলোৱে বাবে আৰামগৃহ (চেতাবনী)

গুৱাহাটী পৌৰনিগম কাৰ্য্যালয়, লাখটকীয়া, গুৱাহাটী-০১

Janasanyog@20517

Masterful Venus oldest Wimbledon finalist in 23 years

LONDON, July 14: Venus Williams became the oldest Wimbledon finalist in 23 years on Thursday as the American star ended Johanna Konta's history bid with a masterful 6-4, 6-2 win.

Twenty years after making her Wimbledon debut, five-time champion Williams is into her ninth final at the All England Club, and her first since 2009.

The 37-year-old's sublime display of power-hitting on Centre Court stopped Konta from becoming the first British woman to make the final in 40 years and set up a title match against Spain's Garbine Muguruza.

Venus, aiming to win her fifth Wimbledon title since 2008, took only 73 minutes to write her name in the history books as the oldest Wimbledon finalist since Martina Navratilova in 1994.

"I've played a lot of finals here. It's been a blessing. I couldn't ask for more, but I'll ask for a little more! One more would be amazing," Venus said.

"I thought the crowd were so fair. Jo gave it her all. It's a lot of pressure. I think my ex-

perience was important.

"I just tried to get one point after another and wow it was done. I'm so happy."

After losing the Australian Open final in January, the world number 11 would be the oldest Wimbledon champion in the Open era - breaking her sister Serena's record - if she collects her eighth Grand Slam crown on Saturday.

Williams' 87th match win at Wimbledon took her past Serena into sole possession of first place among active players.

With Serena at home preparing to give birth to her first child, Venus has picked up the baton and can make it a 13th Wimbledon title for the Williams family this weekend.

"I miss Serena terribly. I wish she was here. Before the match I wished she could do it for me, but I said 'you have to do it for yourself,'" Venus said.

Lifting the aptly named Venus Rosewater Dish would be an especially sweet moment for Williams, who had to deal with a debilitating autoimmune disease for years, as well as her accidental involvement in a tragic car crash that killed an elderly man in Florida last month.

SC questions Srinivasan and Shah's presence in BCCI's SGM

NEW DELHI, July 14: The Supreme Court today questioned controversial former cricket administrators N Srinivasan and Niranjan Shah for attending a recent meeting of the BCCI, asking how could persons disqualified by the apex court be part of any deliberation of the cash-rich body.

"How can a person disqualified by virtue of apex court order be nominated as nominee of State cricket associations and attend the meeting of BCCI," a bench headed by Justice Dipak Misra said.

The bench, which also comprised Justices AM Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud, issued notices to Srinivasan and Shah seeking their responses to the matter on July 24, when they will also go into the fourth status report filed by Committee of Administrators (CoA) headed by former CAG Vinod Rai.

In the fourth status report submitted by the CoA, Srinivasan and Shah have been described as "disqualified office bearers with vested interest", who were trying to stall the implementation of Lodha reforms.

The applications moved by the apex

court-appointed CoA complained that the two veterans who were disqualified were present as nominees of Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) and Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA) respectively at the June 26 Special General Meeting (SGM) of the BCCI.

Both Srinivasan and Shah were disqualified from becoming the office bearers of BCCI or State cricket bodies as they fell under the category of debarment for either having conflict of interest or attaining the age of 70 years, as per Justice RM Lodha panel recommendation which were accepted by the apex court.

The bench also gave relief to former BCCI president Anurag Thakur by accepting his "unconditional" and "unequivocal" apology and dropped the contempt and criminal proceedings against him for perjury.

The apex court accepted the resignation and relieved Guha who has resigned to personal reasons. It also relieved Limaye, who quit recently after being appointed the Managing Director and CEO of National Stock Exchange.

Subramanian suggested six names for filling up the post of administrators fallen vacant after these resignations but the apex court sought suggestions from senior counsels like Solicitor General Ranjan

Srinivasan and Vikram Limaye – have tendered their resignation from the post of administrators of the BCCI.

The apex court accepted the resignation and relieved Guha who has resigned to personal reasons. It also relieved Limaye, who quit recently after being appointed the Managing Director and CEO of National Stock Exchange.

including N Srinivasan (represented TNCA) and Niranjan Shah (SCA) amongst others.

"Such disqualified persons have a vested interest in stalling implementation of judgement because if the judgement is implemented, such disqualified person will have to relinquish control over their respective State associations," it said.

Tripathi told the bench that a CD had also been attached with the report to showcase that 30 per cent of the time which was consumed by Srinivasan and Shah, who had disrupted the June 26 SGM by "trying to hijack" it and that no consensus was reached on the implementation of Lodha reforms among the State associations.

He said these disqualified members cannot attend the meeting by becoming nominees of State cricket associations.

Sibal appearing for TNCA accepted the court's notice on behalf of Srinivasan and said the veteran cricket administrator has no conflict of interest as of now and he can very much become a nominee of an association by virtue of being its member.

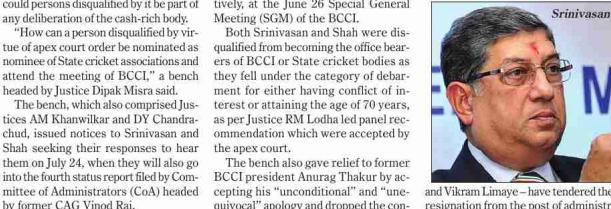
The bench said it will hear the arguments on July 24 on the fourth status report and the objections raised by the CoA on the presence of Srinivasan and Shah as nominees of cricket bodies.

Shah said the arguments were going far beyond the judgements and efforts were being made to target the former cricket administrators.

Solicitor General Ranjan Kumar appearing for Railways and defence services said the Lodha panel recommendations have taken away their right to vote, despite being the founder members of BCCI.

The bench said, "If we look into the history, we cannot deny the contribution made by railways to cricket. If any wrong has been done, then it can be corrected".

It said the court will hear the arguments on the aspect of recall of order on September 5, along with the pleas of various State cricket associations praying for issuance of funds from BCCI for holding matches. – PTI



State players at a selection camp for the forthcoming 9th Mini (U-11 boys and girls) National Roll Ball Championship, in Gauhati on Friday. The meet being organised by the Assam Roll Ball Association will be held at Deshabhakta Tarun Ram Phukan Indoor Stadium at RG Baruah Sports Complex, Gauhati from July 28 to 30. – AT photo

Premier Futsal to be a bigger success'

MUMBAI, July 14: Legendary Brazilian footballer Ronaldinho today said the Premier Futsal was a bigger success this year.

"I am happy to be here (in India). The very first season was a huge success that motivated everyone on the back here. This season is going to be a bigger success. I am very happy to be here and receive the love of fans and people from India," said the 2002 World Ballon D'Or winner.

"I believe the improvement in FIFA ranking (in football) will help Futsal especially after the success of last year. It will also help other sports to grow," said the 2002 World Cup winner.

India jumped their FIFA ranking to the 96th place, the highest in recent times.

Meanwhile, Premier Futsal today announced three year association with Ronaldinho.

The season two of Premier Futsal will begin on Saturday 15 at the NSCI here, and Delhi and Bengaluru will be the two other Indian cities that will host the games, it was announced at the event. – PTI

FIFA lifts ban on Sudan

JOHANNESBURG, July 14: World football body FIFA has said that it had lifted a ban imposed on Sudan last week for government interference in the sport.

The move follows the reinstatement of Mutassim Gaafar Sir Elkhafif as president of the Sudan Football Association.

He had been forcibly removed from the association of

Championship team, which is scheduled to play a qualifier in Burundi.

However, the dropping of the ban came too late for CAP club titles hopefuls Al Merrick and Al Hilal Obeid.

Merrikh were poised to reach the Champions League quarterfinals and Hilal Obeid had already secured a Confederation Cup last-eight place. – AFP

faces by police with unelected official Abdel Rahman Elkhatib taking over.

FIFA, which frequently sus-

pends African countries over government interference, confirmed the lifting of the worldwide ban on Sudan in a statement on its website yesterday.

First to benefit from the removal of the suspension will be the African Nations

CSK will look to retain players, support staff: Official

CHENNAI, July 14: The ban on Chennai Super Kings and Rajesh Rovais is over officially and a top CSK official said that the franchise will look to retain as many players and support staff as it had in 2015.

"Super Morning, Lions! The wait is finally over. Time to rise and shine!" #CSKReturns #whistlepodu, the franchise said on its Twitter handle (@ChennaiPIL).

According to George John,

one of the directors of Chennai Super Kings Cricket Limited, the team "is good that we are back. As far as possible we will try to retain the players and support staff we had."

Former team's Argentine player MS Dhoni, who led CSK since the inception of IPL in 2008, John told PTI, "We have to see what the BCCI has to offer. If there is an option of retaining a player, it was planned in 2015. – PTI

Pollock fears for South Africa's future

LONDON, July 14: South Africa great Graeme Pollock has told AFP that the Proteas will have to accept being a "middle of the road" Test side at best if they stick with racial transformation as a key component of selection.

Transformation is designed to cope with the legacy of apartheid, when largely only white players such as Pollock, one of the greatest batsmen in cricket history, were allowed to play for official South Africa sides.

Pollock accepts players of his era could have done more to help their non-white counterparts, but is concerned that the balance has now swung too far in the opposite direction after South Africa "got it right when Graeme Smith was captain" (from 2003 to his retirement in 2014).

South Africa face England in the second Test at Trent Bridge 1-0 down in a four-match series after a crushing 211-run defeat inside four days at Lord's last week.

Pollock believes political reasons are undermining South Africa's long-term competitiveness as a Test nation.

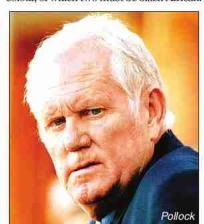
"The major thing is the problem with the politics and interference with the selection of players," Pollock told AFP at a meeting of cricket enthusiasts in London.

"It's affecting the performance of the side – they don't put the 11 best players on the field."

"It's never going to change. As South

Africans, we've got to accept that South Africa are going to be middle of the road in their future Test cricket."

As of last August, Cricket South Africa has transformed the policy as one where national teams should include on average and across all formats, six players of colour, of which two must be black African.



The target at domestic level is a stricter six players of colour per side per match, of which three must be black African.

Pollock said it was at domestic level where the effects were most noticeable.

He cited the elevation of white opener Heinz Kuhn – out for just one and nine on Test debut at Lord's – as a case in point.

"You are going to pick a guy like Heino

Kuhn, the opening batsman, who got a couple of hundreds in first-class cricket. He's not good enough to play Test cricket."

"The guys are playing in a bad standard of

first-class cricket in South Africa because of the politics and interference in selection," the 73-year-old left-hander added.

Hampshire's Kyle Abbott and Riley Rossouw are among several players who've forfeited their South Africa careers in order to play for English counties and Pollock said: "There are so many South Africans playing county cricket... The exchange rate (17 South African rand to the pound sterling) is a big factor."

However, current South Africa captain Faf du Plessis insisted on Thursday that transformation could not be used as an excuse for poor performance.

"Within the team it has never been a challenge, we understand what do and what to expect and what is best for our country – we've been getting on with it," du Plessis, who didn't play at Lord's following the birth of his first child, told reporters at Trent Bridge, the venue for Friday's second Test.

Pollock's own Test career was cut short in 1970, after just 23 matches in which he had already scored 2,256 runs, including seven hundreds, by an anti-apartheid boycott that saw South Africa exiled from official international cricket for two decades. – AFP

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HAPPINESS MEETS JOY
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