

The Assam Tribune

79 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NATION

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM GUWAHATI & DIBRUGARH

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79 Years of Glorious Service to the Nation

Concluding Function

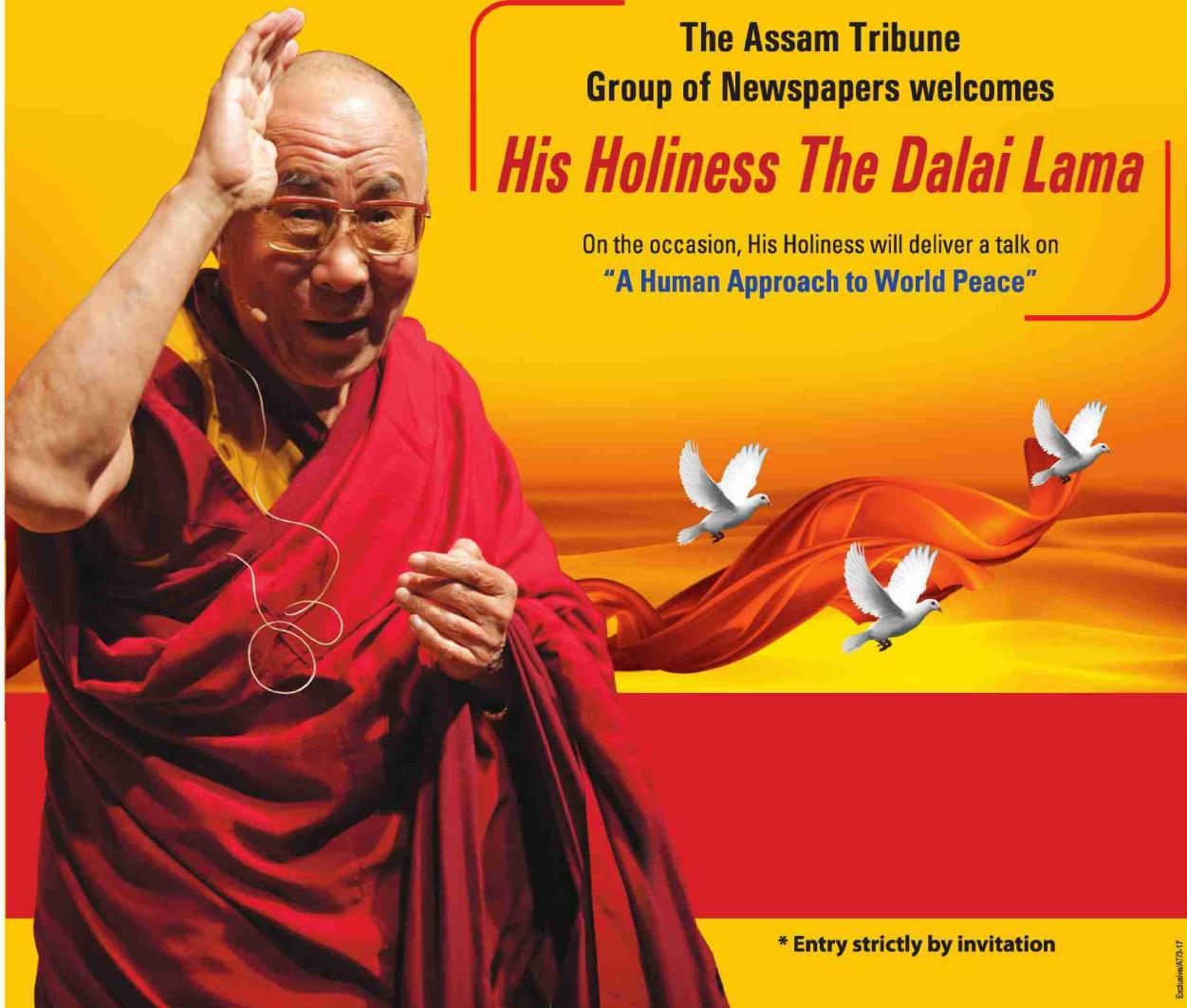
Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of
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Golden Jubilee Celebrations of
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Applications are invited for the post of Professors, Associate Professors and Asstt. Professors for M.Ed. Course as per qualification prescribed in the NCTE Regulation 2014. Applications must reach Principal, College of Education, Nagaon, S.M. Road, Panigao Nagaon (Assam), on or before 10.04.2017. Salary: state scale. Those who have already applied in response to our previous advertisement in Assam Tribune dated 10.01.2017 need not apply. SV/P/684/8/

Walk-in-Interview in Don Bosco Institute for the following posts. L.M.S Coordinator (Experience in Exec.), 2. Hospitality Trainer, 3. Field Coordinators (Dibrugarh). Date: 02/04/17. Time: 10:30 am to 2 pm. Ph: 8811019089. SV/P/685/1

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NEWS CAPSULE

GST Bills

NEW DELHI, March 31: The four GST Bills will be taken up for discussion next week in the Rajya Sabha, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar today said. The four key Bills were passed earlier this week by the Lok Sabha. - PTI

Interest rates

NEW DELHI, March 31: The government has lowered interest rates on small saving schemes like PPF, Kisan Vikas Patra and Sukanya Samridhi scheme by 0.1 per cent for the April-June quarter, a move that would prompt banks to cut their deposit rates. - PTI

Contempt case

NEW DELHI, March 31: Controversial Calcutta High Court Justice CS Kamani today appeared before the Supreme Court that granted him four weeks' time to respond to the contempt notice while requesting submission that his administrative and judicial powers be restored. - PTI

Stent price

NEW DELHI, March 31: Drug price regulator NPPA has increased price of stents by around two per cent effective tomorrow after taking into account wholesale price index. The bare metal stents will now cost Rs 7,400, while the drug eluting stent will cost Rs 30,180. - PTI

Mishap claims 2

BAHATTA CHARIALI: March 31: Two persons were killed when their motorcycle collided head-on with a car on the NH-15 near the roadside rider Aslam Bahman died on the spot, while pillion-rider Tofik Palman succumbed on way to hospital. Car driver Ziyau Haque also sustained injuries and hospitalised. - ANN Service

The Assam Tribune on Internet
<http://www.assamttribune.com> &
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 The Assam Tribune
NOTICE

Today's issue of The Assam Tribune carries a four-page special supplement on the occasion of its Platinum Jubilee celebrations being graced by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

President inaugurates Namami Brahmaputra

Assam emerging as economic hub of East India and SE Asia: Mukherjee



SRDF personnel displaying their skills during the inaugural function of Namami Brahmaputra, in Guwahati on Friday. - AT photo

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 31: Glorifying the plural nature of Indian society, President Pranab Mukherjee today asserted that Indians may be 'argumentative' but had never been 'intolerant'.

"I may believe if someone says Indians are argumentative. But I refuse to believe if anyone says Indians are intolerant. Our traditions, including the teachings of Assam's great scholar and social reformer Sarakadeva never allowed the practice of intolerance,"

Mukherjee said during the five-day Namami Brahmaputra festival on the banks of the river at Kachamarghat here this afternoon.

Butan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, Assam Governor Banwarilal Purohit, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and other dignitaries attended the inaugural function of the festival.

Referring to the diverse and distinctive culture of Assam, the President said India's strength was its ability to manage diversity and forge unity in divergence. It was not just the elites but also the common people who were firmly committed to trust, mutual understanding and harmony, he said.

The President pointed that despite a population of 1.3 million people, with all seven major religions of the world practised and 200 languages used in daily activities, India is the only

country in the world that has 'one flag, one Constitution'.

Highlighting Assam's immense potential, the President said Assam is emerging as an economic hub of East India and Southeast Asia and is the gate-

way and most effective location to put into effect the Prime Minister's Act East policy.

"The State is rich in natural resources and its people are hard working. What is needed

is a strong drive, right policies

and effective implementation backed by modern technologies," he said, adding that Southeast Asia is emerging as an important destination for India's investment and trade.

The President said Brahmaputra river is the lifeline of Assam and the region. It is intertwined into the economy, culture and day-to-day life of the people of the area through which it flows.

The President, praising the efforts of the Assam Government to showcase the Brahmaputra at the global arena, highlighted how rivers have been carriers of civilisations. "The Brahmaputra has also witnessed many occurrences, rise and fall of mighty empires and itself shown heroism and

lent indomitable spirit to men and women," he said.

Recounting his immeasurable visits to all parts of the State during his political career and never encountering any problem even during times of turmoil, the President also lauded the people of Assam for always resisting aggression of land as well as mind."

Thanking the Bhutan Prime Minister for his presence, Mukherjee said the world should learn from this Himalayan nation's practice of quantifying its progress in terms of happiness of its people rather than apportioning materialistic yardsticks.

Earlier, Tobgay, in his speech,

dwell on the historic ties of

2 persons missing

Situation in rain-affected Silchar grim

CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, March 31: Situation in the rain-affected areas of Silchar and its outskirts continued to be grim on Thursday after overnight heavy showers disrupted civic life.

Almost all areas of the city, including Link Road, Bipar, Ambikapatty, Shillongatty and the national highway were inundated.

The communication between Silchar and Karimganj was disrupted after a huge portion of the NH-53 at Bangladesh near Kalyani Hospital was washed away. According to sources, one Arupa Bhattacharjee (32) has

(See page 4)

3 grenades found in Boko

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 31: The army today recovered three live grenades from a grocery shop in Boko.

Following a tip-off, an army team along with an Assam Police representative launched a search at the shop. During the course of the search, a lady entered the shop and lobbed a grenade at the army team, which, however, did not explode as the detonator assembly of grenade had got disintegrated.

On further search of the (See page 4)

JOCOSERIOUS



There must be a foreign hand in adverse climatic condition during this festival!

China warns India over Dalai's visit to Arunachal

BEIJING, March 31: China today warned India of "serious damage" to bilateral ties if it allows Tibet's exiled spiritual leader the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh next week and asked New Delhi to make a "choice".

In its second warning to India in a month, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said it was seriously concerned about India's decision to allow the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing claims as part of south Tibet.

"We are seriously concerned about the news. On the eastern section of the China-India border, China's position is clear and consistent," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told media here, responding to a question on the Dalai Lama's upcoming visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

"The Dalai clique has long been engaged in separatist activities with inglorious record. (See page 4)

Highways

SC modifies order banning liquor vends

NEW DELHI, March 31: The Supreme Court modified today its order banning liquor vends within 500 metres

on national and state highways, reducing the distance to 220 metres in areas having a population of up to 20,000.

A bench headed by Chief Justice JS Khehar, however, made it clear that its December 15, 2016 order banning such vends within 500 metres

of highways shall remain operative for areas other than specified in today's order.

The bench, also comprising Justices DY Chandrachud and LN Rao, said that the verdict was given keeping in mind road accidents owing to drunken driving.

It clarified that licences given to liquor vendors prior to the December 15 judgement would be valid up to September 30 this year. - PTI

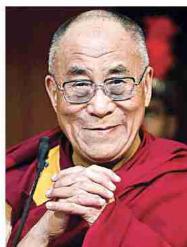
Dalai's NE visit to begin with Tribune function today

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 31: Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama will grace the concluding function of the platinum jubilee celebration of The Assam Tribune and golden jubilee of Dainik Asam to be held tomorrow at the Pragjyoti ITA Centre for Performing Arts auditorium, Makhokha here from 1 pm.

The spiritual leader will also deliver a public talk on 'A Human Approach to World Peace', followed by a question and answer session, where the participants can interact with the Dalai Lama.

The spiritual guru, on a 12-day visit to the North-east, will reach Guwahati tomorrow, and the Assam Tribune Group's function is the first on his itinerary, followed by another public talk in Gauhati University on April 2 at 9.30 am. The programme has been organised by the Krishna Kanta Handique State



SC refuses early hearing in Ayodhya case

NEW DELHI, March 31: To the disappointment of BJP leader Subramanian Swamy, the Supreme Court today refused to grant urgent hearing to the appeals pertaining to the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi case, saying it was under the wrong impression that he was a party to it and not an intervenor.

"At the moment we don't

have the time. We cannot hear you. We do not have the time right now," the bench, also comprising Justice DY Chandrachud, said.

"You did not tell us that you were not a party to the case, we only got to know that from the press," it said when Swamy mentioned his interim plea for urgent listing. - PTI

'Brahmaputra was a great natural highway'

AJIT PATOWARY

GUWAHATI, March 31: The Brahmaputra was truly 'the great natural highway between Bengal and Assam,' during the British Rule, said noted historian Rajen Saikia, quoting from 'A Statistical Account of Assam' of noted civilian-cum-scholar WW Hunter. Saikia, author of the widely acclaimed 'Social and Economic History of Assam 1853-1921,' was speaking to this newspa-

per in keeping with the spirit of Namami Brahmaputra festival. He maintained that if the rivers are opened, the people would get new opportunities opened up for them.

In Assam, the river system governed the settlement pattern, farming and crop selection habits. The rivers were the highways of communication and commerce; unifiers of history, men and measures; straighteners of identity, language and culture. Their

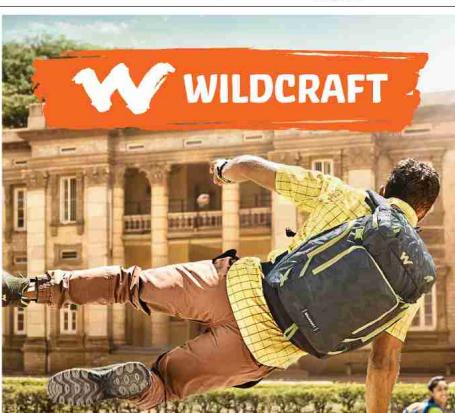
broadness was the index of the Assamese mind and the meanders symbolized their self-defeating waywardness.

Rarely a source of worry, every river of Assam was an object of worship. The river was the promoter of urbanization and destroyer of 'moronic exclusiveness.' By denying themselves the sight of the beauty and broadness, the latter generations may have brought upon themselves the (See page 4)

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'Brahmaputra was a great natural highway'

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Namami Brahmaputra fest begins

CORRESPONDENT

DOOMDOOMA, March 31: The Namami Brahmaputra Festival, billed as the largest river festival of the country, got under way at Hatigul and Dholia in Tinsukia district along with 21 other districts of the State. The MLAs of Sadiya, Tinsukia and Digboi jointly inaugurated the festival in the presence of the DC and SP of Tinsukia district.

The festival began with Brahmaputra *vandana* followed by yoga and *surya-namaskar*. Later, cultural programmes were held and an exhibition and ethnic food stalls were inaugurated.

A correspondent from Majuli adds: The Namami Brahmaputra Festival started on Friday at the Majuli College ground, Darrang, on Friday.

The festival was inaugurated by Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Jorhat MP. Tasa said that the Brahmaputra, which originates in China and flows through Assam, is the lifeline of the State and through this festival an attempt is being made to highlight the importance of the river not only in the national but also in the international level.

He added that despite criticism, it is cannot be denied that there is a great positive side to the festival. "We cannot control flood or erosion in a single day of month. Proper plans and their systematic implementation are essential," Tasa said.

Friday's programme started with a Borgeet sung by Uttar Kamalabari Sattriya's Vaishnabh Upen Borgyan. Satradhikars including Bhakunda Deo Goswami of Sri Sri Bengalnati Satra, Sarat Chandra Goswami of Owa Satra, Sangeet Nakat award winner Gopiram Borajan, Majuli College principal Dr Debajit Saikia and many other digni-

taries of the island district attended the programme.

The satradhikars in their speeches discussed the importance of the Brahmaputra for the State and its role in the Assamese society from the ancient times.

The vote of thanks was offered by Ghankanta Nath, retired principal. In the evening, cultural performances like Satriya Nritya, Bagruumba, Koch-Jhongshi Nritya, Gayan Bayan, Mati Akhara and songs were presented by local artists.

AN Service from Sivasagar adds: Weather was spoilt at Desingmukh on Friday even as the Sivasagar district administration made all-out efforts to add colour to the Namami Brahmaputra River festival.

The festival got off to a lukewarm start without much enthusiasm among the people. Sivasagar Deputy Commissioner Karanay Konwar hoisted the flag, while Sonam MLA Tapon Gogoi flagged off the *baita*.

Tzupur correspondent adds: The much awaited five-day Namami Brahmaputra Festival began at the historic Jahanbari on Friday with the offering of puja on the bank of River Brahmaputra.

Besides showcasing ethnic culture and heritage, the district administration is seeking to highlight the potential of the river and promoting the civilisation thriving on both the banks. To enjoy the festival here, both foreign and domestic tourists are expected to throng the venue of the festival.

Sinpur correspondent adds: The five-day Namami Brahmaputra Festival got underway on Friday morning at Hatiniora and Hillokhunda near Mayong by Jagirod LAC in Morigoan district with a religious event, 'Brahmaputra Pujan' in the presence of a large gathering.

Union Minister of State for Railways Rajen Gohain, along with State PWD Minister Parimal Sekhsaria, inaugurated the Namami Brahmaputra Festival by lighting a ceremonial lamp. Morigoan MLA Ram-

akanta Deuri inaugurated an exhibition, while Jagirod MLA Piyush Hazarika opened the door of an attractive event, 'Mayabai Mayong', showcasing ancient civilisation, culture and magic of Mayong. A total of seven 'rasis' from various 'kingdoms' in midassam attended the inaugural function.

Other programmes like Morigoan Zila Saha Mela, an exhibition of local and indigenous tribal culture, Nishi dance, Garo dance, etc., were flagged off by Sootea MLA Padma Hazarika at 9.30 am at Church Field here.

Besides the ethnic food mela at Jahanbari, an exhibition by students from various schools, including Tezpur Don Bosco School, SHG trade fair, inauguration of *bhoma* and other cultural events were the main events of the day.

AN Service from Hatisingmari adds: Along with other parts of the Brahmaputra Valley, the Namami Brahmaputra Festival started in South-Salmora Mankachar district on Friday. The festival was inaugurated by Dr Motin Rohman Mondal, MLA, Mankachar LAC, at Kalirajghat, a few metres away from the Indo-Bangladesh border, in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Dr Karuna Kumari and other dignitaries with a modest gathering of the local residents.

Scribes' body meet

DOOMDOOMA, March 31:

The 19th biennial conference of Tinsukia District Journalists' Association (TDJA) will be held at Digboi from April 7 to 9 under the aegis of the Digboi Press Club. On the first day, a book fair will be inaugurated and various cultural competitions will be held. On the second day, a poets' meet will be held. On the third day, after flag hoisting and *smriti tarpan*, the open session and prize distribution ceremony will be held. The next issue of the TDJA journal, *Janadis*, will be released at this meeting. Later, the delegates' session will be held.

TDJA president Anuj Kalita and secretary Manoranjan Das and Digboi Press Club president Ranomi Burhagohain and secretary Rupa Hazarika have sought cooperation from all to make the conference a success. — Correspondent

according to the schedule, giving a festive look to Tezpur known for its bountiful resources and vivacity in anthropology, culture and civilisation.

At 8 am, a yoga exhibition was held at Jahanbari, which was followed by the unfurling of the flag of the festival. A cultural procession featuring various ethnic items like Bodo dance, Bihu dance, Nepali dance, Mising dance, Nishi dance, Garo dance, etc., was flagged off by Sootea MLA Padma Hazarika at 9.30 am at Church Field here.

Besides the ethnic food mela at Jahanbari, an exhibition by students from various schools, including Tezpur Don Bosco School, SHG trade fair, inauguration of *bhoma* and other cultural events were the main events of the day.

AN Service from Hatisingmari adds: Along with other parts of the Brahmaputra Valley, the Namami Brahmaputra Festival started in South-Salmora Mankachar district on Friday. The festival was inaugurated by Dr Motin Rohman Mondal, MLA, Mankachar LAC, at Kalirajghat, a few metres away from the Indo-Bangladesh border, in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Dr Karuna Kumari and other dignitaries with a modest gathering of the local residents.

Brahmaputra must be tamed scientifically: Dr Nagen Saikia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, March 31:

Eminent writer and former president of Assam Sahitya Sabha Dr Nagen Saikia today said that a mere *namasakha* to the Brahmaputra would be meaningless if the man river was not cleared to enable the mighty river to flow in its full strength.

Addressing a gathering dur-

ing the five-day Namami Brahma-

putra festival at Kachari here, Dr Saikia said the festival is expected to come up with a comprehensive policy to tame the river. "If the river

is made to flow freely on its own strength towards the sea, the river can be tamed and in the process, the diverse eth-

nic communities living on either side of the river will be nourished and enriched. Since ages the river has been bringing manifold resources to the people and as such it has become the lifeline, culture and economy of the people. The Government must make a scientific study to tame the river," said Dr Saikia.

Namami Brahmaputra, which is touted as the largest river festival of the country, will include an array of socio-cultural, religious, sports, en-

tertainment and educational events.

The festival was declared open in the presence of a modest gathering by chief guest Rhon Daimari, Minister of Public Health Engineering, Food, Civil Supply and Consumer Affairs. Daimari, in his speech, said that the mighty Brahmaputra has blessed the people of the State in many aspects; therefore it is everyone's responsibility to pay obeisance to the river. He also shared the department's plan to make every village and town clean.

BJP leaders, MLAs of the district, and chairmen of various organisations and bodies

attended the inauguration cer-

emony. A souvenir was published on the occasion was distributed during the function. The district administration also declared Dr Nagen Saikia as the brand ambassador of the district's Swachh Bharat Mission during the inaugural function. As his name was being announced, Dr Saikia was felicitated with a shawl and a badge.

The inaugural function was followed by the opening of Heritage Dibrugarh Corner, a handloom and textile exhibition, and the inauguration of Dr Bhupen Hazarika Corner, and a few exhibition stalls. The festival will conclude on April 4.



Girls in traditional attire taking part in a cultural rally to mark the inauguration of the Namami Brahmaputra Festival at Gopalguri Kachari Ghat on Friday. — UB Photos

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my son Kanika Basumatary has been changed as Kingkhar Basumatary. Henceforth my son shall be known as Kingkhar Basumatary for all purposes by affidavit before Notary Kokrajhar on 08.3.17, Birnai Basumatary, S/o Late Tharu Ram Basumatary, Vill & PO : Khargau, Kokrajhar, BTCA, Assam. PN/02/1

LEGAL NOTICE

SUMMONS
IN THE COURT OF MUNIFICE NO.2 (KALYANIPUR) AT GUWAHATI
T.S. No. 156/2016
Syeda Ummi Kultum..... Plaintiff
Vs.
Smti. Monika Begum and Others..... Defendants

To,
3. Md. Rustam Ali
Son of Mesa Ali
4. Azizul Haque
5. Md. Md. Siddin
5. Smt. Aman Musalmani
Daughter of Tayed Ali
6. Md. Jafar Ahmed
7. Md. Md. Idris
8. Md. Khaleduzzaman
9. Son of Badur Zaman
8. Son of Ished
All are residents of F.Ali Ahmed Road, Six Mile, Panjbari Road, Guwahati.

WHEREAS the above named plaintiff has been instituted a Suit against you for declaration of right, title, interest and possession of the Schedule property. You are hereby directed to appear before this Court on 11.04.2017 at 10:30 A.M. through your advocate or pleader or otherwise the suit will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Court on this the 28th day of March, 2017.

By Order
Sheriff
Munifice Court No. 2
Kalyanipur (Hl), Guwahati.

CDL/N/P/6820/1

1,089 jumbos found in Kaziranga count

CORRESPONDENT

KAZIRANGA, March 31: At the end of the elephant population estimation programme, the Kaziranga National Park authorities have put the total number of elephants at 1,089, juvenile female elephants at 73 and calves at 194. There are 108 adult male elephants, 64 sub-adult male jumbos and juveniles jumbos at 52.

A total of 224 and 581 male and female (including adult, sub-adult and juvenile) elephants respectively were estimated during the two-day elephant census program on March 25 and 26. There are 90 elephants whose status as male or female could not be ascertained.

According to information provided to the media by the park authorities, the number of adult female elephants stands at 370, sub-adult female elephants at 138, juvenile female elephants at 73 and calves at 194. There are 108 adult male elephants, 64 sub-adult male jumbos and juveniles jumbos at 52.

The Dalai Lama will visit

the Kaziranga on April 4 to 13.

This is the second time this month Chinese Foreign Ministry has aired its objections to the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh from April 4 to 13.

This is the second time this month Chinese Foreign Ministry has aired its objections to the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, "Chinese Foreign

Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang had said on March 3.

China has protested to India last year also when New Delhi cleared his visit to Arunachal Pradesh on April 4 to 13.

The AJYCP workers shout-

ed slogan demanding an early resolution of the issue.

AJYCP torch rally

CORRESPONDENT

RANGIYA, March 31: Hundreds of AJYCP workers and supporters of Rangia district committee this evening took out a torch rally here in protest against the amendment to the Citizenship Act, 2016, and division of foreigners on the basis of religion.

The AJYCP workers shout-

ed slogan demanding an early resolution of the issue.

Situation ...

(Contd from page 3) been missing from the affected area. Another person, identified as Raminda Das (50), a resident of Kantigam also remains traceless.

The Cachar district adminis-

tration ordered closure of all

schools in the district on Friday and Saturday due to heavy rains and inclement weather. However, the Higher Secondary examinations have been kept outside the ambit of the order.

WASHINGTON, March 31: Scientists have developed an Internet crystal ball — a metabolic calculator that can predict a patient's risk of developing heart disease and diabetes more accurately than traditional methods.

The tool will prompt patients to make lifestyle changes that will spare them the suffering and expenses of avoidable illnesses, researchers said.

"This boils it down to telling a patient, 'on the risk spectrum, you are here, and you are in a position where we are

worried you are going to have a cardiovascular event in the next 10 years,'" said Mark DeBoer from the University of Virginia in the US.

"My hypothesis is that the more specific information you can give to patients at risk, the more they will understand and be motivated to make some changes," said DeBoer.

Doctors usually predict risk for cardiovascular disease. Type 2 diabetes and stroke by looking for five factors: obesity, high fasting triglycerides, high blood pressure, low HDL

(good) cholesterol and high fasting blood sugar.

Patients with abnormalities in at least three of these are diagnosed as having metabolic syndrome and told that they are at elevated risk for future health problems.

The problem with that approach is that it is black and white," DeBoer said.

"As is true in most processes in life, the risk is that this risk exists on a spectrum. Someone who has values in each of these individual risk factors that are just below the cut-

off still has more risk for future health than somebody who has very low values," he said.

The traditional approach also fails to consider variables such as race, ethnicity and gender.

On the other hand, the metabolic crystal ball, developed by DeBoer and Matthew Gurka from the University of Florida in the US, weighs the traditional risk factors and also takes into account race, gender and ethnicity to produce a more accurate risk score.

A small study previously

found that the online calculator's predictions lined up well with actual cases of cardiovascular disease and diabetes, and the new study further bears that out.

The study looked, retrospectively, at outcomes in more than 13,000 people and found that the tool was a better risk predictor than the individual risk factors alone.

"This would suggest that when somebody has this combination of metabolic syndrome findings, there probably is some underlying pro-

cess that is producing those findings, and that those underlying processes are also contributing to future risk," DeBoer said. — PTI

"The hope is that a scoring system like this could be incorporated in the electronic medical record to calculate someone's risk and that information could be provided both to the physician, who then realizes there is an elevated risk, and to the patient, who hopefully can start taking some preventative steps," he said. — PTI

Africans never mistreat foreigners: Indians in Nigeria

ABUJA/NEW DELHI, March 31: Amid attacks on Africans in India, the Indian community in Nigeria today voiced support for Nigerians living in the country, saying such a trend was "disturbing" as Africans never mistreat foreigners.

Asserting that the conception about Africa and Africans is wrong, There has never been a case where an African has mistreated a foreigner in their country," said Arunraj Muruganandam, who is based in Lagos for the last 15 years.

"I was deeply disturbed by the attacks on the Nigerian students in India. But I feel Indians mistreat the Africans anyway. Their conception about Africa and Africans is wrong. There has never been a case where an African has mistreated a foreigner in their country," said Arunraj Muruganandam, who is based in Lagos for the last 15 years.

"The whole fact that we somehow feel we are superior to them is very disconcerting. Even when I first went from Nigeria, there were racist jokes played on me...I feel the Indians apart from those who have lived in Africa will never treat the Africans well," he told PTI over phone.

Asked if he ever felt discriminated or harassed in Nigeria, the 25-year-old mechanical engineer hailing from Chennai said, "I have felt more at home here."

Over 35,000 Indians live in the East African country. — PTI

Brahmaputra was a great ...

(Contd from page 3)

of ignorance. Open the rivers and you open new opportunities," he said.

"But despite this, India still invited the Dalai Lama to visit the region. This will have serious damage on bilateral relations," Lu said.

The Dalai Lama will visit the Arunachal Pradesh from April 4 to 13.

This is the second time this

month Chinese Foreign

Ministry spokesman Geng

Shuang had said on March 3.

China has protested to India

last year also when New Del-

hi cleared his visit to Arunachal

Pradesh on April 4 to 13.

Given under my hand and the

seal of this Court on this the 28th

day of March, 2017.

By Order
Sheriff
Munifice Court No. 2
Kalyanipur (Hl), Guwahati.

CDL/N/P/6820/1



LOCAL FORECAST:
Generally cloudy sky.
Rain/thundershower is
likely to occur.
Maximum and Minimum
temperature is most likely
to be 25°C and 19°C
respectively Saturday.

TEMPERATURE:
Max 26.7°C
Min 19.5°C

Silver jubilee

GUWAHATI, March 31: The Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) will celebrate its silver jubilee tomorrow.

The GMDA had come into being on April 1, 1992. Reiterating its stand of offering quality services to the people of Guwahati, the GMDA will celebrate the occasion in its office premises. — Staff Reporter

4 Akashvani awards to AIR Guwahati

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 31: All India Radio, Guwahati has brought laurels to the State by bagging four awards in the Akashvani Annual Awards in the categories of drama, feature, family welfare programme and science programme.

Addressing the media here, Station Director of AIR Guwahati Dilip Kumar Das said that of the 450 AIR centres in the country, AIR, Guwahati has received highest award for the year 2016.

"Akashvani Annual Awards were instituted in 1974 to promote professional excellence and

to bring out the best from the staff working at various radio stations and institutions. The competition was held among the programmes broadcasted between January 1 and December 31, 2016," he added.

Hari Kosha, a radio play on man-elephant conflict, interwoven with the story of a surrendered militant, produced by Nayan Prasad got the second award of the 450 AIR centres in Tezpur in the wake of the 1962 war and the positive role of a youth organisation, also received the second prize in the feature section. The feature has been produced by Tapan Dutta.

In the family welfare section, the play Jasmine produced by Sanjay Goswami got the second prize in the national level competition. *Jasmine* deals with some relevant topics related to women in the backdrop of rural Assam. The

issues it addresses are women's literacy, superstition, family planning and several issues related to rural life in Assam.

AIR Guwahati also got a commendation certificate for its documentary feature in the science section for its programme called *Uma Awas*, produced by Prabal Kumar Sarma. The documentary feature has been made on conservation of the greater adjutant stork by the villagers of Dadara in Hajo area. Apart from the endangered greater adjutant stork, the documentary also focuses on the need for conservation of water bodies and the green cover.

Meanwhile, as a tribute to eminent playwright Arun Sarma, who was closely associated with the All India Radio, AIR Guwahati has been broadcasting his plays. "We are also planning to further broadcast his popular plays in a phased manner," said Das.

BG train service flagged off in city

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 31: Union Minister of State for Railways Rajen Gohain today flagged off the first broad-gauge (BG) passenger train service in the newly converted Baraigram-Dullabcherra section in Karimganj district by remote from Guwahati.

Parimal Shukla, Minister for PWD, Fisheries and Excise, was also present at the function held at the NF Railway headquarters at Malgoun here.

At Baraigram Station, Aziz Ahmed Khan, MLA of Karimganj (South), was present along with other distinguished guests to witness the event.

In his speech, Gohain said that the Railway Ministry is taking up various developmental projects on a priority basis

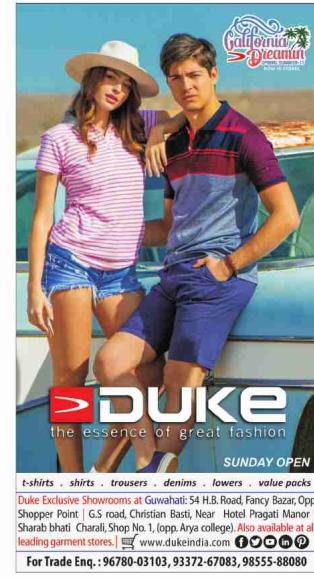
for the north-eastern region under the leadership of the Railway Minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu.

General Manager of NF Railway Chahatey Ram, General Manager of NF Railway Construction Organisation HK Jaggi, along with other senior officials were present.

Conversion of the Baraigram-Dullabcherra section (29.40 km) from meter gauge (MG) into BG marks the completion of gauge conversion of all the MG lines in the NE region to BG.

This Baraigram-Dullabcherra portion was under the Lumbding-Stichar-Kumarghat gauge conversion project.

With the commissioning of this section there is no MG section left for conversion within NF Railway's system.



More Milestones in Rail Connectivity for Northeast

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Commencement of Final Location Survey of
New BG Railway Lines between

Missamari (Bhalukpong) – Tenga – Tawang
North Lakhimpur – Bame (Along) – Silapathar
Pasighat – Tezu – Parshuram Kund – Rupai

by
Manoj Sinha
Minister of State for Communications
(Independent Charge) & Minister of State for Railways

Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya
Governor,
Arunachal Pradesh

Rajen Gohain
Minister of State for Railways

at Naharlagun Railway Station
on 1st April, 2017 at 10.00 AM.

Guests of Honour

Pema Khandu
Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh

Kiren Rijiju
Minister of State for Home Affairs

In the august presence of

Mukut Mithi
MP, Rajya Sabha
Techi Kaso
MLA and Parliamentary Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh



The programme will be streamed live in Ministry of Railway's facebook page - RailMinIndia

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MESSAGE FOR TODAY
Don't be a complainer, make things better.
- TINA ROTH EISENBERG

The Assam Tribune

Resolution required

There is something heartening about the resolve of the Supreme Court of India to urgently deliberate upon the Muslim practices of triple talaq, *nikah halal* and polygamy and spell out their legal ramifications with reference to the Constitution. For too long have Muslim women in the name of observance of the Muslim Personal Law or Shariat Law, been subjected to discriminatory practices which are not in accordance with modern ethos and have been discarded by many Islamic nations. This Law contains a provision for 'triple talaq' whereby a Muslim man can divorce his wife merely by pronouncing 'talaq' three times – in today's technology-driven times some males even divorce their partners through text messaging talaq three times! *Nikah halal* too is a discriminatory process whereby a divorced woman has to undergo a convoluted process of marrying someone else and divorcing him before she can remarry her former spouse. Also, the Shariat Law permits a Muslim man to have as many as four wives, an abomination in today's context – no wonder that it is Muslim women, supported by women of other faiths, who had been demanding repeal of such practices. Perhaps because of the sensitive nature of the issue, successive governments since independence have desisted from acting on it. Even the current BJP Government had refrained from fulfilling what had been one of its pledges during election campaign.

However, prompted by an Apex Court's directive in July last year, the NDA Government had spelled out its stand that it was opposed to the above-mentioned Muslim practices and that "any practice by which women are left financially or emotionally vulnerable or subject to the whims and caprice of menfolk is incompatible with the letter and spirit of Article 14 and 15 of the Constitution" which confer equal rights to all citizens and forbids any form of discrimination. Reassured by such a stance, as well as positive feedback from its request for a public debate, the Apex Court has now decided to have the issue deliberated upon by May 11 by a full Constitutional Bench. No doubt Muslim organizations like the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen which are champions of Muslim Personal Law have opposed any judicial scrutiny, but the Chief Justice has correctly asserted that "if we do not decide it now, it will not happen for years and decades". Naturally enough, the Court will only deliberate upon the constitutional aspect while leaving decisions on the implementation of any changes of law which might be required to the Legislature whose job it is to do. It is also cognizant of the sensitive nature of the issue as reflected in its determination to have a "detailed" hearing. However, it is perhaps only judicial initiative which will finally resolve the issue and embolden our lawmakers into ending practices which discriminate against women.

Vehicular pollution

The Supreme Court has by banning the sale and registration of Bharat Stage-III (BS-III) vehicles from April 1 (the date when BS-IV emission norms comes into force) across the country has made clear its no-nonsense approach *ris-a-vis* growing pollution and sent out a strong message that the health of citizens is more important than commercial interests. If the move is being viewed by some quarters as a major and unwanted setback to automobile manufacturers, the logic does not cut ice because the manufacturers knew well ahead that the BS-IV norms were coming into effect and they had ample time to adjust to the development. The manufacturers were fully aware way back in 2010 that BS-IV norms would be enforced from April 1, 2017 but they chose to be complacent and refrained from initiating sufficient proactive steps. The apex court is right in its observation that BS-III vehicles stand to aggravate further the already deteriorating air quality in the country and such a step was essential to handle the menace of pollution. The apex court also dismissed the plea of automakers to allow them to dispose of existing stocks of 8.2 lakh BS-III vehicles that include 96,724 commercial vehicles, 6,71,308 two-wheelers, 40,048 three-wheelers and 16,198 cars. The only option the companies have now is to export the vehicles or turn them to scrap, as it is not possible to make the old stocks BS-IV compliant. It needs to be noted that BS-IV trucks are 80% cleaner than BS-III, and if the polluting vehicles are sold, they would keep polluting the environment for the next 10-15 years.

Growing air pollution in Indian cities has emerged as a most disturbing concern today. A WHO survey recently put national capital Delhi as the most polluted city in the world, with an annual average of 153 micrograms of the most dangerous small particulates, known as PM2.5s, per cubic metre. The level is six times the WHO-recommended maximum, 12 times the US standards, and more than twice the level considered safe even by Indian authorities. This is a grave health hazard, with children being the most vulnerable to develop a host of serious disorders caused by polluted air. The situation has triggered legitimate apprehension that millions of children in India could suffer debilitating health problems later in life. According to a study, half of Delhi's 4.4 million schoolchildren would never recover full lung capacity. The air quality of the State capital Guwahati, too, has been far from desirable, with its air quality monitoring stations revealing the presence of respirable suspended particulate matter (RSPM) and suspended particulate matter (SPM) above the prescribed limit for the past seven years. While the city's air pollution has not yet attained the alarming levels of Delhi, a similar situation awaits us unless the required interventions are made at the earliest.

Does anything ever change? (II)

PLAIN-SPEAK

Arup Kumar Dutta

Now it all can be revealed! Some while back, for quite a few years, a blighter going by the pseudonym of Scorpion used to write a satirical column titled 'Columnus Venomous' in *The Assam Tribune*. Well, the said blighter happens to be yours truly!

Then why did yours truly stop writing that column? Well, from his childhood he had cherished the delusion, sharing the belief of the inimitable satirists of Britain such as Jonathan Swift and Alexander Pope, that satire was 'an ally of civilization' which could prof members of society, whether in matters of governance or in matters of behaviour, to mend their ways.

But, in the course of years of penning satires, he has discovered the inexorable truth that our politicians, bureaucrats, corporate personalities and what-nots have hides thicker than our own dear great Indian one-horned rhinoceros. He has unearthed the sober reality that in that Kaliyuga, a punch on the jaw would be a greater ally of civilization than satire!

Does anything ever change? Not really. Let me reproduce an extract from a *Columnus Venomous* piece penned on May 2, 1999, that is 18 years ago, on a subject that I have written repeatedly on since then, both with my tongue firmly in my cheek and without. The title of the piece was 'Crossing a Road'.

"Come children, today I shall teach you what you require if wish to cross a road in Guwahati.

"Once upon a time, when your grandma was young, the roads in

Guwahati were easy to cross. Not only young children, but elderly as well as disabled people, could cross them without putting life and limb at stake. There were not too many roads to cross then, and hardly any traffic. Also, bullock-cart drivers were extremely polite and would courteously bring their bulls to a standstill when someone wished to cross a road.

"The useless entity called traffic police had not come into being. This was probably because not too many trucks came to this region, so hardly any revenue could be generated through 'police tax' on them.

"But the situation is far different today. The village of Guwahati grew into a city. Kutcha roads were made pucca. New roads were constructed. More and more people poured into the metro. More cars and buses and three-wheelers and two-wheelers and *thelas* and rickshaws began to ply the streets. There were more accidents and more people were maimed or killed. Most of the deaths were of pedestrians who had gone to their Maker while crossing a road.

"Find you, no one need to teach us how to cross a road when we were young. But now a child must be trained from infancy how to do so if he is to stand a chance of growing up into an adult. Also, in other metros pedestrians are aided by various devices such as traffic lights and zebra crossings. Vehicles must stop at a designated line when the red light comes on so that people can walk across. There is heavy fine for drivers who disobey this rule.

"Moreover, other metros have overhead footbridges by which a road can be crossed. At certain places there are also underground walkways for the pedestrians. None of these aids are to be seen in Guwahati. Oh, traffic lights have been placed at strategic crossings, but they do not work. Also, there are well-marked zebra crossings at certain points. But in the absence of traffic lights as well as any form of regulating authority, any attempt to cross

roomed all over the city. Their sole aim is to keep their members physically fit so that they can safely cross the streets of Guwahati.

"In addition, I recommend that all of you join a dancing school, quite a few of which have come up in your city. They will train you up to be expert road-crossers, considering the amount of dancing you will have to do when attempting the same. Do not make the mistake of taking lessons on the Satyri or Manipuri style. These are very slow forms of dancing and will hinder rather than help. Remember, speed is the essence of the art of road crossing.

"A course in Bharat Natyam or Kathak would be more suitable. Also, a rudimentary knowledge of the dance steps of our folk-drama would help. The swaying two-step forwards, one-step back movements which actors in Bhaona use do come handy while crossing a road in Guwahati.

"The ability to think clearly and plan out your course in advance is a sine qua non for crossing a road. That is why I recommend that all of you take up chess as a pastime. Not only will this wonderful game equip you with the ability to chart your actions well in advance, it will also imbue in you the virtue of patience. And patience is one commodity you will require in tons if you are to succeed in your ambition of crossing a road.

"You see, crossing a road in Guwahati is not done in seconds, or even minutes. At places like Silukhuri or Ganesghuri you might have to wait as long as an hour before finding a gap between the rows of unruly, in-

cessant traffic. However, this is also a blessing in disguise, for it gives you enough time to do your planning. You must compute in your mind the direction and speed of the traffic flow and the possible odds against your encountering an obdurate minibus driven by a maniacal driver while darting across. Other factors, such as atmospheric pressure and temperature, humidity, wind direction and speed, and the presence or absence of traffic policemen must also be computed before you take your life in your hands and dance across.

"The majority of citizens of Guwahati tend to forget that crossing a road here is an art as well as a science. They adopt the most unscientific approach, with unfortunate consequences. The technique employed by them can be called the *Blind Man's Buff*, and consists of closing the eyes, raising the arms ahead of the body and making a dash for the other side, hoping against hope that drivers would have the sense to apply their brakes to let them pass. This, indeed, is a dangerous technique and is responsible for most tragedies. As I have said, it is proper planning as well as sturdy legs which will get you to the other side, rather than a fatalistic reliance on *kismet*.

"Finally, children, knowledge of swimming is essential if you are to cross a road safely. Yes, yes, I can see the question in your eyes! How can swimming equip us to cross a road, do you ask? Well, children, wait till next month when the monsoons arrive. The roads of Guwahati will then turn into miniature Brahmaputras. Then must you be able to swim, if you are to stand any chance of crossing a road!"

Written in May, 1999, did I say? Does anything ever change, do you ask?

The Dalai Lama and Tibet's freedom struggle

■ Rupam Baruah

It seems the 'Dalai Lama' is a name which the communists of China and the Red China fears most today, because anywhere this great spiritual leader goes or anything he says to the public causes unlimited anxieties and anger for the Beijing autocrats. As if, the very presence of this apostle of peace and non-violence anywhere or the words he speaks as messages may shake the very foundation of Red China's vast empire! Of late, this fear has increased more and more. The recent utterances and threats issued by Beijing on the Dalai Lama's visits to Assam and Arunachal Pradesh are the latest examples of such fear psychosis. Of course, there is obvious reason for this fear psychosis. The history says that after more than long 60 years of occupying Tibet, the home of the Dalai Lama, illegally, the communist dictators of China, since the days of Mao Ze-dong and Zhou Enlai, have not yet been able to diminish the morale of the great Tibetan people. Thousands of unarmed civilians were massacred by Mao's so-called 'Liberation Army'. Tibet's national army could not resist the heavy armed assault of Red China. As a result, Tibet's highest spiritual leader and the head of the State, the 14th Dalai Lama had no other way but to escape into exile in India. By 1959, Mao's communist force illegally occupied whole of Tibet and thus, Red China became India's illegal neighbour. Since then, China's communist rulers are going on with their ruthless colonialism in Tibet.

The history of Red China's invasion and illegal occupation of an independent land like Tibet in the name of 'liberation' and 'Socialism' is one of worst human rights violation. Before 1950, Tibet existed as an independent buffer state between India and China for centuries. As immediate neighbours, Tibet's relation with India was very close and friendly, especially since the 7th century AD when Buddhism went to Tibet from India. But after the Second World War, Mao Ze-dong and his communist force captured power in China in 1949. Hence, China became the 'People's Republic of China' or the 'Red China'. Mao Ze-dong then declared, "Tibet is the palm of China and La-dakh, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and NEFA (now Arunachal Pradesh) are its five fingers." With this imperial-

concern and sympathy from more and more people. This ever increasing popularity of the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people's struggle has become a cause of embarrassment for the 'Socialist' dictators of China. Though by muscle power and brute force, Mao Ze-dong's gang illegally occupied Tibet and deposed the Dalai Lama in the 50s, yet the increasing public opinion around the globe in support of the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan struggle seem to embarrass Red China sensing a moral defeat. That is why Beijing's psychosis makes it jump and fuss about anything related to the Dalai Lama and Tibet.

The history of Red China's invasion and illegal occupation of an independent land like Tibet in the name of 'liberation' and 'Socialism' is one of worst human rights violation. Before 1950, Tibet existed as an independent buffer state between India and China for centuries. As immediate neighbours, Tibet's relation with India was very close and friendly, especially since the 7th century AD when Buddhism went to Tibet from India. But after the Second World War, Mao Ze-dong and his communist force captured power in China in 1949. Hence, China became the 'People's Republic of China' or the 'Red China'. Mao Ze-dong then declared, "Tibet is the palm of China and La-dakh, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and NEFA (now Arunachal Pradesh) are its five fingers."

With this imperial-

istic intention, Mao's Red Army or the PLA (People's Liberation Army) made Tibet its first target and in October, 1950, Tibet was invaded. The Red Army inflicted brutal atrocities and destruction on the peace-loving Tibetan people. Thousands of unarmed civilians were massacred by Mao's so-called 'Liberation Army'. Tibet's national army could not resist the heavy armed assault of Red China. As a result, Tibet's highest spiritual leader and the head of the State, the 14th Dalai Lama had no other way but to escape into exile in India. By 1959, Mao's communist force illegally occupied whole of Tibet and thus, Red China became India's illegal neighbour. Since then, China's communist rulers are going on with their ruthless colonialism in Tibet.

Known as the 'Roof of the world', Tibet is situated in the heartland of Asia. Before 1949, the people of Tibet lived there in harmony with nature, guided by their Buddhist principle of peaceful coexistence. But with the invasion of Tibet, the consumer and materialistic Chinese communist ideology trampled upon this nature-friendly attitude of the Tibetan people. Under Red China, there is unprecedented systematic destruction of the social life and environment of Tibet. Besides human, the rich wildlife, forests, plants, minerals and water resources have all suffered irreparable loss and degradation. The deforestation of Tibet has led to the siltation of rivers, causing floods in neighbouring countries. Red China's constructions of big dams over the Tsangpo (the Brahmaputra) in Tibet are signals for future disasters for India and Bangladesh. It has turned the once peaceful Tibet into a vast military zone. Besides, it now utilizes Tibet for chemical warfare exercises. The 'land of snow and peace' is now being used for dumping of China's nuclear wastes.

Under the communist China's occupation, up to 1.2 million Tibetans have been killed and 6,000 religious and cultural institutions, monuments and national heritage have been destroyed. Now and then, Tibetans are imprisoned for exercising their fundamental rights. They are subject to arbitrary arrest and detention. Those imprisoned are often denied legal representation and the Chinese legal proceedings fail to meet international standards. It seems, as the Dalai Lama had said, "The ultimate Chinese aim is to destroy the Tibetan religion and culture and absorb the Tibetan race." Tibetan women are subjected to enforced sterilization, contraception and abortion procedures. Even children are not exempted from Red China's repression. There are Tibetan political prisoners below the age of 18, and the monks and nuns are consistently dismissed from their religious institutions. More than 70% of the Tibetans in Tibet now live below the poverty line. The communist authority is encouraging the unabated influx of Chinese immigrants to Tibet with its distinct culture and religious identity.

the citizens of the State in the Aadhaar process. Yours etc., MOUMITA DEB, Guwahati.

Human trafficking

Sir, – This refers to your editorial 'Human trafficking' (AT, March 29). Assam has become a source as well as a transit destination for trafficking of women and children for sex tourism from neighbouring countries. It is a well-organized network and we need to call for stringent laws and implementation of such laws to contain the menace. The Indian Government is complicit in the abuse suffered by the trafficked victims. These abuses are not only violations of internationally recognized human rights but are specifically prohibited under the domestic laws.

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

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir, – According to a government notification, the government higher secondary schools are governed by Service Rules. In this context, it must be said that the teachers of the government high and higher secondary schools should have a higher status, not alike the teachers of the provincialized schools. The pay structure should also be different. According to the government rules, 60% teachers from the higher secondary and 40% from the secondary sections should get promoted to the post of principals which was seen till 2004. The pay structure of such principals should get enhanced. In accordance with the government notification, the government

higher secondary schools have separate Service Rules, but in actual practice it is seen that there is no difference between the status of the provincialized schools and the government school teachers including the principals excepting the appointment of the principals. I would like to draw the attention of the government through your esteemed daily to take necessary measures to fulfil the aspirations of the government school teachers. Yours etc., R Borah, Nagpur.

Aadhaar card

Sir, – The necessity of the Aadhaar card is growing with the passage of time, as the Government has made the application of Aadhaar mandatory for availing benefits of various government schemes and services. A recent notification from the CBSE has mandated the use of Aadhaar card for registration of all the competitive examinations like the NEET-UG, JEE Mains and JEE Advanced and even CAT. It has been already linked with the JEE Mains and JEE Advanced 2017 examinations. Not only this, now the Army has also decided to make Aadhaar card necessary for army recruitment. As a result, the people of Assam are facing various problems and difficulties as here in the State, the Aadhaar database has been merged with the NRC database. The value of Aadhaar has increased to such an extent that the absence of it can deprive the people from availing various benefits such as passport, digital ID proof, getting new SIM cards, etc. Therefore, the need of the Aadhaar number is a must for all the citizens of the State. Hence, the authority concerned should take immediate steps to include

that what is happening to them is wrong. If at all they are aware of it, then they are scared to speak about it. In India, children from the poor and rural communities, especially those with emotional, physical and learning difficulties, are particularly vulnerable to inter-country trafficking. The culprits should be brought to book and exemplary punishment be imposed. What we need is right from early childhood, children should be taught about the sensitive issues and the lawmakers too should enact strict laws to curb this menace and keep the children safe. A weak legal system is yet another lacuna which adds to the menace. Yours etc., VINOD C DIXIT, Ahmedabad.

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



BJP leaders after a meeting on the forthcoming KAAC election at Morteng near Ulukunchi in West Karbi Anglong on Thursday. — UB Photos

Namrup AJYCP stages protest in front of BVFCCL

ANN Service

NAMRUP, March 31: The AJYCP Namrup Regional Committee staged a protest in front of the main gate of BVFCCL here yesterday under the leadership of Dhruba Gogoi, president and Sanjib Gogoi, GS respectively in support of the following demands: a) Early settlement of BVFCL's Namrup 4th plant issue and allocation of required NG for the said plant b) Filling up the vacant posts in 3rd and 4th grades c) To remove the retainer system d) To recruit the workers who have been working temporarily in the 3rd grade vacant posts based on experience and competency by offering opportunity to appear in the interview e) Restructuring of payments paid to the temporary workers.

The AJYCP also submitted a memorandum to BVFCCL authority.

Hari Kirtan Samoroh from today

CORRESPONDENT

BAIHATA CHARIAL: March 31: The 17th edition of Chaturaha Prahar Hari Kirtan Samoroh (*mahu yajna*) will be held at Athgaon Hari Mandir premises with a three-day programme from April 1.

The programme of the Samoroh will begin on April 1 with the inauguration of the main entrance by Mohan Deka, president of Athgong panchayat at 7 am followed by hoisting of the Bushudhvaya (flag of Lord Bushundhvaya) Das, president of Dineswar Das, president of the Samoroh at 8 am.

At 9 am, there will be tree plantation, at 10 am hoisting of Hari Kirtan Samoroh flag, at 11 am Bhagawat procession, at 4 pm *ayutman* and at 8 pm programme of *lokeri geet* will be held.

On April 2, from 11 am Bhagawat path will be held 2 pm, at 6 pm *banti pratidan*, at 7 pm *pani tolani*, at 8:30 pm installation of Bhagawat and at 9 pm *nagara naam* will be organised. On April 3 at 5:30 am, Hari Kirtan will be inaugurated by Dineswar Das, president of All Assam Sadhu Seva Samiti, at 11 am reception and at 6:30 pm, felicitation programme will be organised.

Youth fest at Udaguri from April 10

CORRESPONDENT

UDALGURI, March 31: The Youth festival of BPF of Udaguri district is going to be held from April 10 to 12 at Udaguri stadium here to encourage the youths of the district in sports and cultural activities. This was made known to this correspondent by Mitharam Basumatary, ex-EM of BTC here on Thursday.

According to information, while sports events will cover football, cricket, women kabaddi and volleyball etc., the cultural events will cover folk

the Scientific Advisory Committee meeting held at Nahari Krishnigyan Kendra (KKV) on Wednesday.

He added that as Guwahati city is attached to Nahari district, it has business potentiality of agricultural produce like egg, milk, fish and vegetables. Bujarbarah called upon the farmers to use agriculture for business purposes.

He further added that the AAU has been trying to make double cropping and organic farming more convenient for farmers so that they can double their income by 2022. To encourage the farmers, the Vice Chancellor requested the government to speed up the 2017-18.

procurement process of agricultural products beside declaring the support price. Bujarbarah also directed the Nahari KKV to make a model agricultural village with the facilities of mechanical and scientific agriculture.

The meeting conducted by Dr Meital Deka, programme coordinator of Nahari KKV, was addressed by Dr Hemendra Ch Bhattacharya, director of extension education, AAU, Jorhat and Dr Apurba Chakravarty, director of veterinary research, among others. The meeting discussed the action taken report of 2016-17 and the proposed action plan of

CORRESPONDENT

MAJULI, March 31: The three-day Rashtriya Sanskritik Mahotsav, organised by Union Ministry of Culture, held at Garamar Bansi Gopal Natya Mandir from March 27, concluded on Wednesday.

With an aim to showcase the cultural heritage of India in association with zonal cultural centres and in the direction of North East Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur, have been organising this Mahotsav in all the eight north-eastern States from March 23 to 31.

As a part of the programme, this festival was also organised in Majuli, where along with

The Kajagi Nigam Karmi Union submitted a memorandum to the Union Heavy Industry Minister.

Moina Parijat formed: Srishti Prakashan of Jagi Bhaktagao under Mayong Circle on Monday convened a general meeting under the chairmanship of Hali Ram Deka, advocate of Morigaon and a large number of minors from the area at the premises of the Bhaktagao maanghar to form a common platform, Moina Parijat. The objective of the meeting was to make the minors aware of maintaining their physical and mental sta-

bility through participation in cultural, literary and sports activities.

Among others, Associate Professors of Jagiroad College Dr Hema Chutia, Dr Dipak Jyoti Baruah also spoke on various aspects.

In this connection, a 31-member Srishti Moina Parijat was constituted with Hali Ram Deka and Ajit Rai as president and secretary respectively.

Death condoled: Various socio-cultural and literary organisations, including women organisations in and around Jagiroad namely, Jagiroad Natya Gosthi, Jagiroad Lekhi-

ka Samoroh, Kalyanee Mahila Sangha, etc., condoled the death of Arun Sarma. Meanwhile, Jagi Kalpataru Puthiharal and Krishiti Chora, a socio-cultural and literary organisation under Mayong Circle, in a general body meeting held recently, condoled the demise of eminent playwright, novelist, dramatist, journalist, Sahitya Akademi and Sangeet Nakta Akademi award winning writer Arun Sarma.

The chief adviser Mahidhar Saikia, in his speech, said that an iconic figure, Arun Sarma's death is an irreparable loss for cultural and literary fields of the State.

Union minister Geete visits Nagaon Paper Mill

CORRESPONDENT

JAGIROAD, March 31: Union Heavy Industry Minister Anant G Geete visited the HPCL unit of Nagaon Paper Mill (NPM) situated here on Thursday evening. Addressing the employees and workers of the mill in an open meeting organised inside the premises of the mill, the Union minister said that the mill will be revived.

Due to mismanagement,

Rashtriya Sanskritik Mahotsav concludes at Majuli

A CORRESPONDENT

MAJULI, March 31: The presentations of the cultural programmes of the non-northeastern States like West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and Orissa, variety of dance forms and dramas of north-eastern States were performed in all the three nights.

During the first night of the festival, which was inaugurated by lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Sahitya Akademi Award winning artist Kushalakan Dev Goswami, performance of Purulia Chhau (West Bengal), Sambalpuri dance (Odisha), Apsara Nritya, Matikbara, Notuwa Nritya, Peacock dance, Sukmani Ojapali, Misling Bihu, Jakoja Nritya, Singpho dance, Jikiri and Zari, Keli Gopal Naat (Assam) were showcased.

On March 29, Purulia dance (West Bengal), Narti (Bihar), Karuna dance (Jharkhand), Borgeet, Kohati Dhulla Bhaona, Bohuwa Nritya, Jhumur, Mech-Kachari, Jhumur Nritya, Rengma Moonlight

dance, Deuri dance, Nadubhangi Nritya, Holi Geet, Bihu dance and Mikha Bhaona (Assam) were performed.

The Ministry of Culture has been organising the festival from 2015. This is the fifth edition of the festival and held for the first time in the north-eastern region.

Rashtriya Sanskritik Mahotsav which was first started in Tawang for this edition, is also simultaneously held in Majuli, Sipajhar, Dudhanoi, Gouripur, Lakhimpur, Shillong, Aizawl and Chifai with a three-day programme from March 23 to 31.

As many as 5,000 artists from North-east and 2,000 artists participated in the programme.

Karbi Anglong dist admin holds meet for harmony, peace

CORRESPONDENT

DIPUH, March 31: The Karbi Anglong district administration held discussions with the leaders of various social organisations and senior citizens at Dipu Circuit House here on Thursday on militant organisations' quit ultimatum served on Bengal and Hindi-speaking communities and how to defy it.

The district administration suggested to the organisations as how to check the untoward incidents and restore peace by building up confidence among the people. Chairman of Joint Action Coordination Committee of Autonomous State, Kharsang Teron said that incidents of violence occur from time to time as there are groups creating disturbances.

"The Central as well as State governments should be sincere enough to end the problems created by the extremist organisations. It has been seen that for Karbi Longri and NC Hills Liberation Front (KLNLF), in ceasefire with the Central government for over

six years now process of negotiation is still on, Jas, another militant organisation had been invited for several rounds of talks, but now it has been discontinued. The accord with the UPDF is still to be implemented. The delaying tactics of the government have created more complicated issues. The government should be able to build up confidence among the people and find solutions to various issues," Teron said.

While talking about border disputes, Teron blamed the Assam government for not being serious enough to solve the inter-State and inter-district border problems of Karbi Anglong. It is for the Central government to implement or not to implement but the district administration should apprise the State government about the demands of the district, Teron added.

Since people of Karbi Anglong are peace loving, there is no question of harming other communities. The activities of extremist organisations cannot be linked to the day-to-day activities of the common people," he said.

Deputy Commissioner Adil Khan, who chaired the meeting, sought collective support from all sections of people. He said that all information have been given to State government for necessary security arrangements. He also said since terrorists have no religion, caste or community, they can create violence anywhere.

He said the activities of any extremist organisation to create violence should be rejected. Section 144 CrPC has been imposed in the district to discourage assembly of groups and holding of meetings, he added.

The district administration is working for peace and harmony and cooperation of public is needed, he said. It may be mentioned here that the meeting was convened in the wake of a warning and ultimatum given by three extremist outfits, Kamatapur Liberation Organization (KLO), National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri (PDCK) against the Bengali and Hindi-speaking communities to quit Kamatapur, Karbi Anglong and Tripura by March 31, 2017.



An artisan busy making folk musical instruments in Golaghat on Thursday. — UB Photos

Bhawani Pada Bhattacharjee



Born in the pre-independence era, Bhawani Pada Bhattacharjee, a legendary leader of the working class and Central government employees' movement of the nation passed away on March 22 at Bengaluru. He was 76.

Educated in Shillong and an avid sportsman, late Bhawani Pada Bhattacharjee had started his service career as an UDC in AG's Office, Assam, Shillong in 1962. The cause of the working class and their rights was dear to him. He aligned himself with the association activities of the department. During the joint strikes

of the Central government employees in 1967 and 1974, he played a pivotal role in organising the movement and was suspended from service. He subsequently faced various departmental actions as one of the leaders of the movement in Shillong.

A charismatic orator, he selflessly fought for the rights of government employees of North East at national forums. He was elected as the secretary general of the All India Audit and Accounts Association in 1991 to 1993. Thereafter, he served as a vice-president of the All India Audit and Accounts Association from 1994 to 2000. As a member of the National Council, the highest forum of negotiations for grievance redressals of the

Central government employees working in the North Eastern Region, including the demand for 25% North Eastern Region Allowance. He was also an office bearer of various trade union forums in the North East.

In promoting the cause of the working class and to remain a part of the workers, Bhawani Pada Bhattacharjee had sacrificed his promotion as a Group "B" Officer and above.

Till his last breath, he was the president of the Pensioner's Association, Assam.

He is survived by his two sons and a host of relatives.

On the day of his adyashradh today, I pray to the Almighty for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

— Bapaditya



২০১৬-১৭ বিত্তীয় বর্ষত পথগায়ত আৰু গ্রামোৱয়ন বিভাগত বৰ্তমান চৰকাৰৰ সফলতা



মহাজ্ঞা গান্ধী ৰাষ্ট্ৰীয় গ্রামীণ নিয়োগ নিশ্চিত আঁচনি

ব্যৱহৃত পুঁজিৰ পৰিমাণ



আৱণ্টিত কৰণ্ডিন



সম্পূৰ্ণ কৰা ঘৰৰ সংখ্যা



২০১৫-১৬ বিত্তীয় বৰ্ষ



২০১৬-১৭ বিত্তীয় বৰ্ষ

ৰাষ্ট্ৰীয় সামাজিক সহায় আঁচনি

এই আঁচনিৰ অধীনৰ ৯ লাখতকৈ ও অধিক হিতাধিকাৰীয়ে
তেওঁলোকৰ বৃদ্ধ পেশন, বিশেষভাৱে সক্ষম লোকৰ বাবে
থকা পেশন আৰু বিধৰা পেশনৰ ধন এপ্তিল মাহৰ পৰা
প্রতি মাহে পোনপটীয়াকৈ তেওঁলোকৰ বেংকে
একটুকুটত লাভ কৰিব।

দীন দয়াল অন্ত্যোদয়া যোজনা

কৰ্মসূচী	২০১৫-১৬ বিত্তীয় বৰ্ষ	২০১৬-১৭ বিত্তীয় বৰ্ষ
আঞ্চ সহায়ক গোটৰ সংখ্যা	১৩,৬৪২	১৭,৩০৪
ঘৰীয়ামান পুঁজিৰ পৰিমাণ	১,৯৬৪.৮ লাখ	২,৬২০.২৫ লাখ

দীন দয়াল উপাধ্যায় গ্রামীণ কৌশল যোজনা

কৰ্মসূচী	২০১৫-১৬ বিত্তীয় বৰ্ষ	২০১৬-১৭ বিত্তীয় বৰ্ষ
প্ৰশিক্ষণপ্ৰাপ্ত যুবক-যুবতীৰ সংখ্যা	৪,২৫৮	৮,১৭০

প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী আৱাস যোজনা (গ্রামীণ)

২০১৬-১৭ বৰ্ষত আৱণ্টিত ঘৰৰ সংখ্যা ২,১৯,৬৯৫ টা

বিত্তীয় আৱাসটনৰ পৰিমাণ ২,৮৫৬.০৪ কোটি টকা



HL/india/class/2017/01

আমাৰ গাঁও আমাৰ আঁচনি

বাইজৰ অংশগ্ৰহণেৰে গাঁৰৰ উন্নয়ন পৰিকল্পনা

- বাজাখনৰ ২,২০০ খন গাঁও
পথগায়ত উন্নয়ন পৰিকল্পনা
প্ৰস্তুত কৰা হৈছে।
- প্ৰথমবাৰৰ বাবে পথগায়তৰ বাৰ্ড
পৰ্যায়ত উন্নয়ন পৰিকল্পনা প্ৰস্তুত
কৰা হৈছে।
- গাঁও পথগায়তৰ ২২,০০০ বাৰ্ডৰ
প্ৰতিটোতে একেটাকৈ উন্নয়ন
পৰিকল্পনা প্ৰস্তুত কৰি গাঁও সভাত
অনুমোদনৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছে।
- এই ব্যৱস্থাত গাঁৰৰ বাইজে অংশ
গ্ৰহণ কৰাৰ বাবে গাঁওসমূহত
সজাগতা অভিযান চলাই থকা
হৈছে।

জিলা গ্রামোৱয়ন
অভিকৰণৰ কৰ্মচাৰীসকলৰ
বাকী থকা দৰমহা সমাগত
ৰঙলী বিহুৰ আগতে দিয়া হ'ব।

পথগায়ত আৰু গ্রামোৱয়ন বিভাগৰ
সকলো ঠিকাভিত্তি নিযুক্ত
কৰ্মচাৰীকো তেওঁলোকৰ বকেয়া
দৰমহা সমাগত ৰঙলী বিহুৰ
আগতে দিয়া হ'ব।

২০১৭ বৰ্ষৰ আগষ্টৰ
ভিতৰত সকলো
ঠিকাভিত্তি পদ পূৰণ
কৰাৰ অৰ্থে পদক্ষেপ গ্ৰহণ
কৰা হৈছে।

আহক আমি সকলোৰে মিলি গাঁৰৰ উন্নয়নত সহযোগ কৰো।

পথগায়ত আৰু গ্রামোৱয়ন বিভাগ, অসম।

COTTON COLLEGE STATE UNIVERSITY
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website : www.ccsu.ac.in

Notice Inviting Quotation

Sealed quotations from manufacturer/vendors/dealers/suppliers are invited for supply and installation of different items under the packages:

SL	NIC No.	Package
1	NIC NO. CCSU/2017/27	Sealed quotation of Molecular Diagnostic Lab. (equipment supply and installation) under DBT-NER sponsored project, Dept. of MBBT

Dated: March 31, 2017
The detailed NQ Documents is available in the Office of the Registrar, CCSU and may be collected on payment of a fee of Rs. 500/- per pack payable through ICICI bank challan available in the CCSU website. Last date of submission of sealed quotations to the undersigned is 8th April, 2017 upto 12 Noon, and time after which no quotation will be accepted.

Sealed quotations are to be submitted during office hours alongwith the earnest money of 2% of total quoted value of the quotations as per date and time mentioned above.

Janasanyog/294/16

Sd/- Registrar

ADMISSION NOTICE

Counseling for Selection and Spot Admission into MDS Courses in the Regional Dental College, Guwahati for the Session 2017.

It is for general information to the candidates that the counseling and spot admission into the MDS courses in the Regional Dental College, Guwahati for the session 2017 will be held on 6th April/2017 at Office of the Director of Medical Education, Assam, Srimile, Khanapara, Guwahati-22 at 10.00 am. Candidates whose names have appeared in the State of Assam merit list of NEET-MDS-2017 conducted by the National Board of Examination, New Delhi and who secured merit position upto 10 in the said merit list as well as who have fulfilled all the eligibility criteria for admission into MDS courses against Assam State quota seats as per rules are hereby requested to physically appear for the counseling and spot admission as per schedule mentioned above.

Sd/- Prof. (Dr.) Arun K. Barman
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NAAM SHABANA (Hindi) U/A

W hat happens, when, in a shocking revelation, an Indian mother gets to know that her son is a homosexual? Primarily, shock overcomes her mind, followed by the question of acceptance. The protagonist, Vaijayanti, a middle-aged, divorced Mumtai, and mother of three sons encounters such a situation when an anonymous caller informs her in a threatening voice that her gay son is responsible for his son's suicide.

Shattered by such news, keeping all her scruples aside, she goes through all the personal belongings of her three sons and finds some clues — a few pictures hidden under the mattress, a pendant bearing the name of a certain Manish, etc. All these in Devan's bedroom, the youngest son who happens to be the closest to her. There is turmoil in her mind, but she gathers all her courage and confronts her 21-year-old college-going son when he comes home that weekend.

Deep understands Vaijayanti's turmoil and so does not deny the truth, declaring his sexual preference to his mother for the first time. He also gives her a pen drive that contains his per-

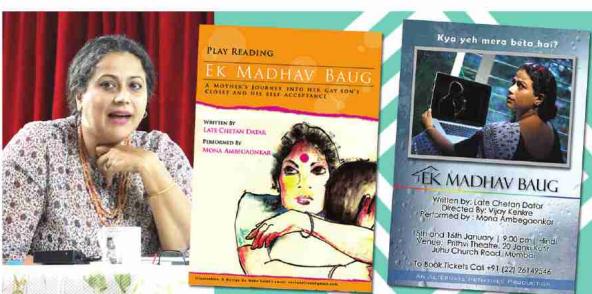
Subhrat Roy

sonal diary that he wants her to read. On reading it, she finds that her son had scripted down all his feelings and emotions only for her; he had always meant to share his thoughts with her as the notes were all addressed to her. His confession includes details on how he tried to cope with the situation, how he even tried to alter his sexual orientation, both through psychiatric treatment and religious practices. On reading all that, she realises the pain that her son must have faced for being 'so different'.

This emotional, sensitive saga of mother-son relationship and acceptance of homosexuality, *Ek Madhav Baug* is the pioneering work of Marathi playwright late Chetan Datar, which has been staged in different venues all over the nation for the last seven years. This time, The Humanist Trust of Mumbai — a leading NGO working on LGBT issues and rights,

in association with Xukia-Assam, presented the 87th show of the play at the Satyana Bhattacharji Hall in Guwahati on March 5, 2017. Directed by Vijay Kenkre, the mono act was enacted by renowned actress and theatre personality Mona Ambegaonkar, who left the spectators spellbound as she narrated the story, portraying the emotions of the different characters. With perfect voice modulation, going in and out of characters in this hour-long narrative, Mona keeps the audience captivated and renders her excellent delivery in the presentation. Though no conflict arose in a mother's mind, being one of the prime objectives of this soul-stirring drama, it has also thrown up solutions in achieving happiness within.

The heart-rending depiction of reality gets even livelier with the sudden transition of emotions, dilemma, empathy-antipathy, outcry and sadness, leading to a happy climax.



Though Rituporno Ghosh's *Momories in March* has also dealt with a similar subject, the climax here has been projected in an optimistic manner. In a predictable climax, it is considered that the son may commit suicide, but here, the protagonist challenges the creator that her son should not die. Rather, following the rule of 'a play within a play', she dares to bring a climax where her son would live a happy life with his partner, and the mother would witness and support him in every step thereafter.

Being unique and unconventional in its concept and moral, this narrative plays the role of an eye-opener for many who consider homosexuality a disease. It compels people to really think and change their attitude towards the LGBT community. The play also initiates scope for positive dialogue when someone faces such a situation. Above all, the play advocates the need for family members to

tackle the situation sportingly and to open up doors of acceptance.

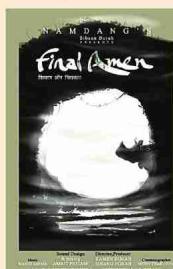
It is widely believed that "Coming out is a process, not an event". Though Vaijayanti encounters the news as an event, she follows a process patiently to win her son's confidence and the process continues as she gives him full support in living his life on his own liberty. Examples of such supporting family members are visible around us. The play is all about their acceptance and more.

Soulful cry

A 22-minute documentary, *Final Amen*, made on the on-going mayhem upon the one-horned rhinos of Assam was awarded under four categories in the recently concluded Film Festival in Guwahati, held under the auspices of the Government of Assam, in association with the Jyoti Chitrabhan Film Studio. A production from the house of Nanding, the film was shot exclusively in the Kaziranga National Park. Directed by the duo of Sibanu Bora and Ramen Bora, the film was adjudged as the Best Directorial, Best Sound Design and Best Voice-Over Entry at the Festival. Earlier, the film fetched the Special Jury Award and the Best Voice-Over Award at the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Azad Film Festival, held in New Delhi, besides screening at the Delhi International Film Festival.

Dibyendu Goswami
Nearer home, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has also chosen this film as its official entry at its State film festival.

Projecting the rhino as the main protagonist, the film takes one into



breathtaking greenery once the camera rolls through extensive long shots, showing the rich fauna and flora. The narrative, drafted in a humane approach towards the entire matter, sounds very pleasant coming from the rhino, for it generates a sense of heartfelt sympathy and genuine concern towards the grim situ-

ation. Moreover, the statistics in tabular form shown on the screen serve as an added advantage to acquaint one with the alarming state of affairs and constant threat to these rare species. Says Ramen Bora, "Our aim is to draw serious attention of the civil society towards the massive massacre that is happening unabatedly for the past several years through this medium so that it can reach out to the masses. We have planned for public screenings with support from like-minded organisations, and consultations with reputed eco clubs and NGOs working for wildlife conservation are on towards this end. We wish that the soulful cries of these innocent inmates are heard and something is done to end the brutality."

The film made in three linguistic versions, probably to cater to different circles, has been ably scripted by Niloy Bhattacharjee in English, Purbani Goswami and Nabajyoti Bora in Assamese, and Dinkar Kumar and Akash Kumar Jamar in Hindi. With sound design by Amrit Pratim, and cinematography by Hiten Thakuria, the entire unit, with voice over by Adil Hussain, has done a commendable job.

(dibyendugoswami21@gmail.com)

Reviving Kamalananda's songs

Gazoor Suror Chaki, an album with ten songs was recently released. Five of these songs have been penned by legendary poet-lyricist *Bauli Kabi* Kamalananda Bhattacharya and they have been rendered by Lukima Bhattacharya Bhagwati, daughter of the poet and a regular singer of AIR. The other five songs have been written by late Dr Niharendu Bhattacharya. All the ten songs have been tuned by accomplished musician and tabla player late *Sangeetvohit* Vivekananda Bhattacharya. The album, presented by *Bauli Kabi* Production, deserves praise for bringing out some old numbers, which are worth preserving for posterity.



Assamese-Hindi video album *Sajna*

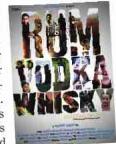
A bilingual video album titled *Sajna* is going under production in Hindi and Assamese with participation of a few supermodels. Interestingly, supermodel Gagan Joshi has lent his voice to the Hindi version. Incidentally, Gagan Joshi is a multifaceted talent — a supernova from Dibrugarh, and an actor. His co-singer in Hindi is Barsha Bora of Assam.

The duet in Assamese has been rendered by Barsha Bora and Amit Pal. Assamese songs for the album have been written by Barsha Bora, while the Hindi version has been written by Gagan Joshi. The video has been directed by Dipankar Kashyap, with musical score by Alarjeet Dayaz. The songs have been picturised in scenic locations of Shillong, with choreography by Ashim Gogoi. The models who will appear in the video are Avtar Bajwa, Shaobh Riaz Khan and Anju Dahal from Assam.



May-end release

Movies showcasing the emotions, love and sentiments of the youth always come in for high praise among movie lovers of all ages. This time, a full-length Assamese film has been made on this subject, titled *Rum Vodka Whisky*, directed by Prasanta Saikia, and produced under the banner of Veena International. The film's script has been penned by Produt Kumar Deka, Rajdeep and Prasanta Saikia. The story of the film revolves around three friends and their love life. The key roles in the film have been essayed by Hiranya Das, Queen Hazarika, Udayan Duarah, Priyanka Bhargav, Moon Rajiv, Durgashri Bora, Rupam Barua, Prakash Medhi, Sunaina Kamath, Dr Hitesh Baruah, among others.



Art of a problem



Nowadays, we frequently get to see art events being organised with contributions from the participants, in the absence of sponsorship from either a government department or a corporate house or with any well-heeled organisation backing the event. The mobilisation of resources on most occasions is done by the participants themselves, and sometimes by an NGO under the banner of which they get together and exhibit their works. As the whole exercise of organising an exhibition involves high costs, the artists naturally hope for getting some of their expenses covered by a sponsorship — either for paying the gallery fee or bringing out a catalogue of works, or both. When such acts of benevolence are not forthcoming, participants fall back on their own resources to make it happen. Compared to the shows organised in the State, the costs of holding an exhibition in the country's mega cities are sky high, relatively speaking, which require the participants to cough up huge amounts individually if they do not get any financial backing.

Such independent efforts, wherever they are made, speak of the determi-

nation and resilience of the artists and are always worthy of praise.

But, whenever an entity (an individual or a group of individuals or an NGO) comes forward to organise such an event, the money collected from the would-be participants invariably brings with it the issue of commitment. It's a normal deal as part of which the organiser's commitment comes in lieu of the money extended by the participant, who would, therefore, expect the former to ensure his/her participation in the show.

artsCAPE DEBASHISH BEZBARUAH

It's a commitment that is liable to create problems for the organiser as well, particularly when works of poor quality are extended, and the commitment is most likely to lead to a compromising of aesthetic principles of presenting an art exhibition or organising such an activity.

The plight of the organiser in such a scenario is understandable, but the system thus created, seems to be flawed itself, because it does not leave much room for an uncompromising selection policy. The selection in such cases is done by

applying the theory of elimination, by removing the wheat from the chaff, but what if the wheat itself is of ordinary quality? The money paid by the participant would probably come to its aid.

Of course, no one can take away the right of a participant to seek a place under the sun. Not all artists may be of such quality so as to be assured of a place in high-grade exhibitions. They may be silently following their passion for art at home, producing works of average quality, but with little hope of getting an opportunity of exhibiting their work within the confines of a high-profile gallery. This is when an exhibition organised with the help of individual contributions may come to its rescue.

However, the problem is, there always exists the possibility of such exhibitions throwing up a hotch-potch in terms of variety, mediocrity in place of quality. The impact of this also falls on the works that are of good quality. Not only do such good works suffer from the company of bad ones, the viewers also suffer from a lack of motivation to appreciate them with any degree of seriousness.

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Abhishek Bachchan's next thriller drama

Actor Abhishek Bachchan is teaming up with director Nishikant Kamat for a thriller drama. The project will be produced by KriArj entertainment and Kyta Productions. "Abhishek has loved the idea and he is charged up for this film. He has never tried his hands at thrillers. There is no specific prep work required for the film," sources close to the project said.

"The shoot for the film will begin from May this year and hopefully the film will release during winter. The film will mostly be shot in two schedules," the sources added. Apart from this project, KriArj entertainment has also tied up with John Abraham's production house JA Entertainment for a six-movie deal and Amushka Sharma's Clean Slates Films.



Rajinikanth's Sri Lanka controversy

Actor Madhavan has slammed politicians for turning superstar Rajinikanth's visit to Sri Lanka into a political controversy. Rajinikanth, last week, called off his trip to the island nation, where he was supposed to unveil a housing scheme for the Tamil population affected by the civil war.

"You must understand we are very vulnerable as actors and it is unfair that social issues get linked to us before the release of a film," Madhavan said while talking to *Times Now*. He also suggested that about 500 families depend on a film for their livelihood and with so much at stake, the actors cannot afford to be dragged into a controversy that could affect the business of their film. He also said that Rajinikanth was smart to cancel his Sri Lanka visit.

Lycra Productions had announced that Rajinikanth will unveil a housing scheme for displaced Tamils in Jaffna. The pro-Tamil groups raised a protest banner against Rajinikanth's visit, alleging ulterior motives behind the invitation of Lycra Productions. With just a few months left for the release of sci-fi film, *2.0*, which is being made at a budget of more than Rs 400 crore, Rajinikanth could not have afforded a controversy that hampered the release of the film. So, he gave into political pressure, requesting the people to respect his decision as an individual in the future.



Kamrupiya Dhulia Samoroh
With a view to preserving and propagating traditional culture, *Aitiya Asom*, a newly-formed organisation will be organising a *Kamrupiya Dhulia Samoroh* (a festival of drummers of Kamrup) — a first of its kind, next month at the Sankaradeva Kalakshetra in Guwahati.

The festival will have performers from different groups of drummers of the district, with the highlight being the performance of one hundred *horoldols* and hundred pairs of *taul*. Another highlight is going to be the *Dhulia Circus*. For the purpose, a 35-member committee has been formed with Mukul Goswami as the president, Bhupen Goswami as the working president, and Dhiren Bharali as the secretary.

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

Death of a Salesman

The *Separation*-famed Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi added another feather in his cap when he recently won his second Oscar for *The Salesman* in the Best Foreign Film category.

The Salesman deals with moral decay and emptiness, which afflict human minds in compelling situations. As evident in his earlier gems like *About Elly* and *The Past*, besides *Separation*,

Farhadi often portrays engaging psychological realist drama out of mundane family issues and routine domestic events, embedding them with elements of surprise. And yes, *The Salesman* is no exception either.

The Salesman unfolds with a disaster: an apartment block shattered up by a nearby construction activity, and its inhabitants, including happily married couple Emad (Shahab Hosseini) and Rana (Barenah Alidoosti), have to flee. The event serves as a premonition, as well as a metaphor of things awaiting to happen when a shocking turn of events attributes to a crumbling relationship.

Cheerless couple Rana and Emad are both actors in a theatre company, presently enacting the role of the Lomans—Willy and Linda in a production of Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*. As we know, the play addresses loss of identity and a man's inability to accept change within himself and the society in which protagonist Willy Loman's one mistake has irrevocably changed his re-

lationship with the people he loves most. As scenes from the play act as interlude in the narrative structure of the film, echoing significance along the way, we are led to see how an unfortunate incident causes indelible scars in the lives of Rana and Emad in their newly-found relationship.

Rented courtesy a colleague, the new apartment's past tenant was a single woman of questionable morality, in which Rana gets assaulted in a shower by an invader, apparently in a case of mistaken identity. Her attacker flees soon after, leaving behind his mini truck. The incident unfolds off-screen when Rana gets out of the bathroom to open the door, assuming Emad coming home. Rana suffers a head injury and is so terrified

that she would not favour a police investigation, fearing harassment. However, the mysterious incident, the violation his wife endured in particular, makes Emad sick, at least mentally, so much so that it develops fissures in their marriage. The injury inflicted on the masculine keeps Emad fuming; an irrepressible rage fuelled by the incident nudes him for

revenge. His pursuing the culprit soon presents an unsuspecting old man who steps into the trap accidentally. It takes little time to ascertain the culprit, and breathtaking drama ensues as Emad ruthlessly deals with the ailing old man with all his fury, subjecting him to humiliation and physical assault, which culminates in a life-threatening situation. While Emad hits a moral low ground, without much remorse, Rana, deeply upset and inconsolable, quietly takes the road.

While the evocative first scene, which obliquely suggests that even modern edifices are developing cracks in a society in which orthodox conventional values dictate its social order, the psychological condition of Emad strips its immediate suspect — the wounded masculinity. What could be more disturbing for him beyond his failure as a protector is the violation his wife suffers or the modesty outraged by a stranger. Besides the growing tension in their relationship, the violent streak that he develops soon after and the way he pursues the attacker with all his ferocity, revealing absolute male emptiness, should, therefore, be best explained in this perspective alone.

At the end of the film, as both Emad and Rana are putting on their makeup for another performance of *Death of a Salesman*, their faces

remain expressionless. Will they live together, will they part ways? While Farhadi's film portrays how unforeseen conflicts can affect the steady rhythm of ordinary lives with horrifying pace and devastating effect, it is, however, more significant for its shrewd representation of modern Iranian society, in which conflicting values of the past and present are yet to coexist in perfect synchronisation. While Miller's play brilliantly takes a swipe at capitalism or the American dream, which, in fact, chewed up Willy Loman's life, the loss of naïvety in Emad's character can be seen in a similar setting, as another case of systemic frailties.

In Farhadi's other films, his reliable companion in the acting department, both Shahab Hosseini as Emad and Taraneh Alidoosti as Rana, deliver wonderful realistic acting, now a regular feature in most of the Iranian films. By the end, however, it is Farid Sajadhosseini, who in a stellar performance in his brief yet memorable appearance in the role of the perpetrator. While Hossein Jafarian's camera mostly remained hand-held, reflecting the uneasy trajectory of the lives it followed, the sparse music comes mostly in the transitional shots of the play, accentuating the dramatic effect.

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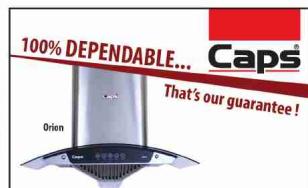


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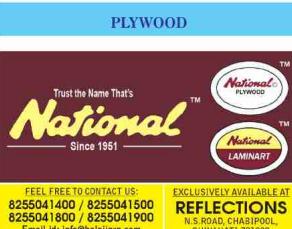
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Shoppers Corner on Page-16

US presses NATO allies on defence budgets

BRUSSELS, March 31: US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson today urged his NATO counterparts to boost their defence budgets and do more to combat extremists in Syria and Iraq.

Meeting with NATO foreign ministers in Brussels for the first time, Tillerson said it's important to ensure the US-led military alliance "has all of the resources, financial and otherwise, that are necessary for NATO to fulfill its mission."

After advancing the talks a week to suit Tillerson's schedule, ministers from Europe and Canada wanted to hear exactly what more Washington expects NATO to do against the Islamic State group.

"We want to discuss how we can build on NATO's already important involvement in the fight to defeat ISIS and other counter-terrorism actions that NATO can provide,"

25 killed, 65 hurt in Taliban bombing in Pak

PESHAWAR, March 31: At least 25 people were killed and 65 others injured today when a powerful car bomb ripped through a crowded market outside a Shiite imambarah in Pakistan's restive northwest tribal region in an attack claimed by the Pakistani Taliban.

The car bomb went off near the main gate of the imambarah in the central bazaar of Parachinar, Kurram Agency where a large number of people were shopping for fruits and vegetables. At least 25 people were killed and 65 others injured in the car bomb blast, Geo TV reported.

The condition of the majority of those injured was stated to be critical. Of those critically wounded, 27 were air-lifted to Peshawar hospitals. Scores of vehicles were also damaged in the blast. An eyewitness told *The Express Tribune* that security men at the Imambarah were busy checking at the central Imambarah's entrance for women, when an unidentified person parked a car which exploded. - PTI

DHAKA, March 31: Bangladeshi police today launched an assault on a militant den in a northeastern city, a day after a family of eight committed suicide by blowing themselves up as security forces stormed another terror hideout.

"Our SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) team started operations at their (second) hideout," a police officer in Moulibazar told PTI.

Explosions and gunfire rocked the neighbourhood, witnesses said.

The police this week

launched 'Operation Hit Back'

to flush out militants from their hideouts after they failed to convince them to surrender. The militants in the hideout that was targeted yesterday belonged to Neo-Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (Neo-JMB), inclined to Islamic State. "The suicide explosion blew up all who were inside the hideout... We assume seven to eight including minor children were there when the militants exploded a powerful device as we laid the siege to the den," Monirul Islam, the chief of police's counter terrorism unit, had told reporters yesterday.

The neo-JMB was behind the July 1 terror attack on a Dhaka cafe that killed 22 people, including 17 foreigners. Yesterday's operation was launched two days after the chief of neo-JMB was killed along with three terrorists in 'Operation Twilight' in Sylhet. - PTI

INTERNATIONAL B'desh police launch assault on another ultra den

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017



The Assam Tribune

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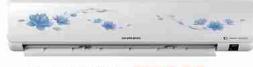
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Large doses of Vitamin C – up to eight grammes per day – can significantly reduce the duration of a spell of common cold, scientists have found.

Previous studies on different animal species have found that vitamin C significantly prevents

mal effects of vitamin C on the common cold are unknown.

Harri Hemila from the University of Helsinki in Finland analysed the findings of two randomised trials each of which investigated the effects of two Vitamin C doses on the duration of the common cold.

The first trial administered three grammes per day vitamin C to two study groups, six grammes per day to a third group, and the fourth group was administered a placebo.

Compared with the placebo group, the six grammes per day dose shortened colds by 17 per cent, twice as much as the three grammes per day doses did.

The second trial administered four grammes per day and eight grammes per day vitamin C, and placebo to different groups, but only on the first day of the cold.

Compared with the placebo group, the eight grammes per day dose shortened colds by 19 per cent, twice as much as the four grammes per day dose did.

Both studies showed a significant dose-response relationship between the vitamin C dosage and the duration of the common cold.

It is possible that even higher doses may lead to still greater reductions in the duration of common cold, researchers said.

Hemila noted that there have been proposals that vitamin C doses should be over 15 grammes per day for the best treatment of colds, but the highest doses that have so far been investigated in randomised trials have been much lower.

"Given the consistent effect of vitamin C on the duration of colds, and its safety and low cost, it would be worthwhile for individual common cold patients to test whether therapeutic eight grammes per day vitamin C is beneficial for them," Hemila said.

"Self-dosing of vitamin C must be started as soon as possible after the onset of common cold symptoms to be most effective," she said.

(Source: PTT)

Curing common cold

Larger doses of vitamin C may cut common cold duration, finds a study

and alleviates infections caused by diverse bacteria, viruses and protozoa.

Given the universal nature of the effect of vitamin C against various infections in different animal species, it also seems evident that vitamin C influences the susceptibility to, and the severity of infections in humans.

The common cold is the most extensively studied infection regarding the effects of vitamin C. The majority of controlled trials have used a modest dosage of only one gramme per day of vitamin C.

The pooled effect of all published studies has shown a statistically highly significant difference between the vitamin C and placebo groups, which indicates a genuine biological effect.

However, the optimal doses and the maxi-



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Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** You have a list of projects in your mind that you would like to tackle. Not every moment has to be social or filled with people. Retreat and indulge your desires right now. Others will enjoy you even more when you decide to emerge. Tonight: Indulge a fragile friend.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** You could be in a situation where you seem to have little choice but to smile and throw yourself into what is happening immediately around you. Whether you are single or attached, you will meet people with ease and expand your immediate circle of friends. Tonight: Frolic away.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

**** You are being overwhelmed by everything that you have to do. It's time to take a break. Grab a book you have been wanting to read or watch a movie you have been wanting to see. Tonight: Don't stay far from home.

Man's the bad child of the universe.

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AFA selection camps

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 31: The Assam Football Association (AFA) will conduct selection camps to prepare the State teams for the Senior National Women Football Championship, to be held at Phagwara, Punjab from May 1 and Junior National Football Championship for the Dr BC Roy Trophy which will be held from April 25.

The women camp will be organised by the Mariani Sports Association at Mariani under the aegis of the Jorhat District Sports Association from April 8 while the junior camp will be held at the Krishn Vigyan Kendra, Kahukuchi, Azara from April 5. Altogether 40 junior players from different districts have been selected to attend the camp.

Altogether 50 players are picked from various affiliated district sports associations for the women's camp.

AFA secretary Anku Dutta informed that all the DSA's should send their players for the camps in time.

Tennis ball cricket

GUWAHATI, March 31: Ulubari Yuval Sangha will host the Sved Rakibul Rahman and Abdul Rouff Memorial Tennis Ball Cricket Tournament at the ASTC complex (Volvo Point), Ulubari here from April 6 to 8.

Interested teams may contact the organisers at their Ulubari club house before April 5, stated a release.

Inter coaching centre cricket

GUWAHATI, March 31: City Cricket Coaching Centre will host the 13th All Assam Golap Hazarika Memorial Inter Coaching Centre Cricket Tournament at the Dispur Parade Ground from April 2.

Teams participating are: CCC (A and B), Guwahati CCC, GTC CA, NF Rly CA, Royals CA, Mangaldoi CA, Kokrajhar CA, Dibrugarh CA, Lakhimpur CA, Johar CA and Tezpur CA.

City CC tourney

GUWAHATI, March 31: Panther XI and Crocodile XI won their respective matches today in the City Cricket Coaching Centres organised 8th City Premier League at the Dispur Parade Ground.

Brief scores: (Sr) Rhino 94 (MI Rajkumar 21, Pankaj Kumar 21); Panther 995 (Partha) Sahana 27, Anup Bhuzel 21; Pritam Kalita 326, Budhwar Ranghang 224.

(Dr) Crocodile 994 (Rizwan Zaman 35, Ankut Mechi 25, Pragyan Herow 2/14); Tiger 60 (Hari Deka 24, Ankut Mechi 3/12, Milan Dasgupta 3/8, Yasir Alam 2/5).

ASEB, NF Rly enter final

GUWAHATI, March 31: ASEB Sports Club set up summit clash with NF Railway Sports Club in the maiden edition of the Dulaijan Club organised North East Invitational Football Championship.

In two closely played semifinals at Dulaijan today, NF Railway SC defeated Shillong Lajong Football Academy 3-2 while ASEB SC edged past NISSA, Manipur 1-0.

For the NF Railway team, Kapil Daimary (19th minute), Jelendra Brahma (36th minute) and Sriman Basumatary (66th minute) netted one goal each while Saino Kuku (56th minute) was the lone scorer for the Shillong team. NF Railway conceded a self goal through Milan Basumatary.

Samujal Rabha netted the lone goal for the ASEB team. The final will be played on April 2.

SU DO KU

2	1	6	7
9	5	4	8
1		4	9
6		5	7
3		8	2
2	6	4	5
7	3		4
1	6		9
4		8	3

Solution of last problem

3	2	7	5	1	9	8	6	4
9	1	5	8	4	6	2	7	3
8	4	3	2	9	7	5	9	1
5	6	7	1	3	8	4	6	2
6	3	8	1	2	7	4	8	5
4	7	2	3	8	5	9	1	6
2	6	4	9	5	8	7	3	1
7	5	8	4	3	1	6	9	7
1	9	3	7	2	5	4	8	6



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নমামি

বৰ্ষপুত্ৰ মহোৎসৱ ২০১৭

নগাঁও জিলা

গোহাবি

অসমৰ সভ্যতা, সংকুলি আৰু বিকাশৰ পথীক মহাবাহু বৰ্ষপুত্ৰ। গৱৰণ-গৰ্ভীৰ গতিবে চিৰ প্ৰবাহান মহাবাহু বৰ্ষপুত্ৰৰ শৌৰোৰময় ইতিহাসৰ নগাঁও জিলা ও এক সামৰী। সমগ্ৰ বাজাৰৰ লগতে নগাঁও জিলাতো নমামি বৰ্ষপুত্ৰ উৎসাহৰ কৰিব নগাঁওৰ কৃষ্ণ-কৃষ্ণতি, কলা, সাহিত্য, পৰ্যটন, আৰ্থ-সামাজিক দিশ বিশুবৰ্সীৰ সমুখ্যত দাঙি খৰিবলৈ যৎপৰেণাপ্তি চেষ্টা কৰা হৈছে।

এই প্ৰয়াসেৰে ৩১ মাৰ্চ, ২০১৭ৰ পৰা ৪ এপ্ৰিল, ২০১৭ লৈ জিলাবৰ নগাঁও, শিলঘাট, বৰহা আৰু বিভিন্ন খণ্ডৰ নগাঁওৰ কৃষ্ণতি, খেল-শেৰাবলি, খাদ্য মেলা, হস্তশিল্প মেলা, প্ৰদৰ্শনী, শৈক্ষিক কৰ্মশালা, সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠান আৰিৰ বৰ্ণণ্য কাৰ্যসূচীৰ আৰোভূত কৰিছো।

উৎসৱৰ সমুখ কাৰ্যসূচীটো উপস্থিতি থাকি নগাঁও জিলাৰ কলা-কৃষ্ণ, ঐতিহ্য-পৰম্পৰা আৰু বিকাশৰ সম্ভাৱনা দেশৰ তথা বিশ্বৰ জনপ্ৰণালীৰ সমুখ্যত দাঙি ধৰাত সমুদীয়া প্ৰচেষ্টাৰ অংশীদাৰ হ'বলৈ সদোচি বাহিভূলৈ সাদৰেৰে নিমান্নণৰ শৰাই আগবঢ়ালো।

৬০০০০ চৰকু

(চমচে সংঠিঃ আঁহি, এ. এছ.)

উপন্যাস, নগাঁও

১৫৩৪৪১৮১৮

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The Assam Tribune

Dalai's Dreams

R Dutta Choudhury
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"If you extend the hand of friendship, today's enemy can become tomorrow's friends."

Every person has dreams, but the dreams of a common person are different from those of a great one like the Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama dreams about world peace and he strongly believes that the world will be a better place to live as more and more people, particularly the younger generations, are fed up with violence and they want a peaceful world. He also sees a better future for Tibet, which is now under Chinese occupation.

The 14th Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso was born to a Tibetan farming family on July 6, 1935 and at the age of two, he was identified as the reincarnation of the 13th Dalai Lama. Even when he started talking, the young kid started saying "I shall go to Lhasa", which surprised everyone. But no one in the family thought that the kid would go on to become the 14th Dalai Lama. The 13th Dalai Lama breathed his last in 1933 and since then the Tibetan Government was looking for his reincarnation. They identified the kid as the reincarnation of the 13th Dalai Lama and he was taken to the Kumbum Monastery, where an old lama took good care of the child.

The 14th Dalai Lama was brought to Lhasa in 1939 and first taken to the summer palace Narbulingka. His formal education as the spiritual leader of Tibet started at the age of five. But right from his youth, he had to suffer hardships as in the summer of 1950, Lhasa received a news that the Chinese troops started attacking Tibet. The small Army of Tibet was not at all strong enough to take on the mighty Chinese. At the same time, the Dalai Lama was entrusted with the responsibility of taking over the political powers of Tibet and he sent delegations to different countries like America, England, Nepal, etc., seeking their help to protect Tibet from the Chinese aggression. But America and England refused to help out Tibet and as last resort, the Dalai Lama sent a governor to hold talks with the Chinese. On March 10, 1959, the Dalai Lama received an invitation from a Chinese army officer to attend a drama festival. Though the invitation looked a simple one, the conditions applied by the Chinese made everyone understand a ploy of the Chinese to take him into custody as one of the condition was that the personal security staff of the Dalai Lama would not be allowed to carry any weapon. Thousands of Tibetans gathered in front of the Narbulingka palace and decided that the Dalai Lama should escape from Lhasa. Dressed like a common army man, he left Lhasa and came down to India. The Government of India also agreed to give asylum to the Dalai Lama. Since then, he has been staying in India and waging a movement to free Tibet.

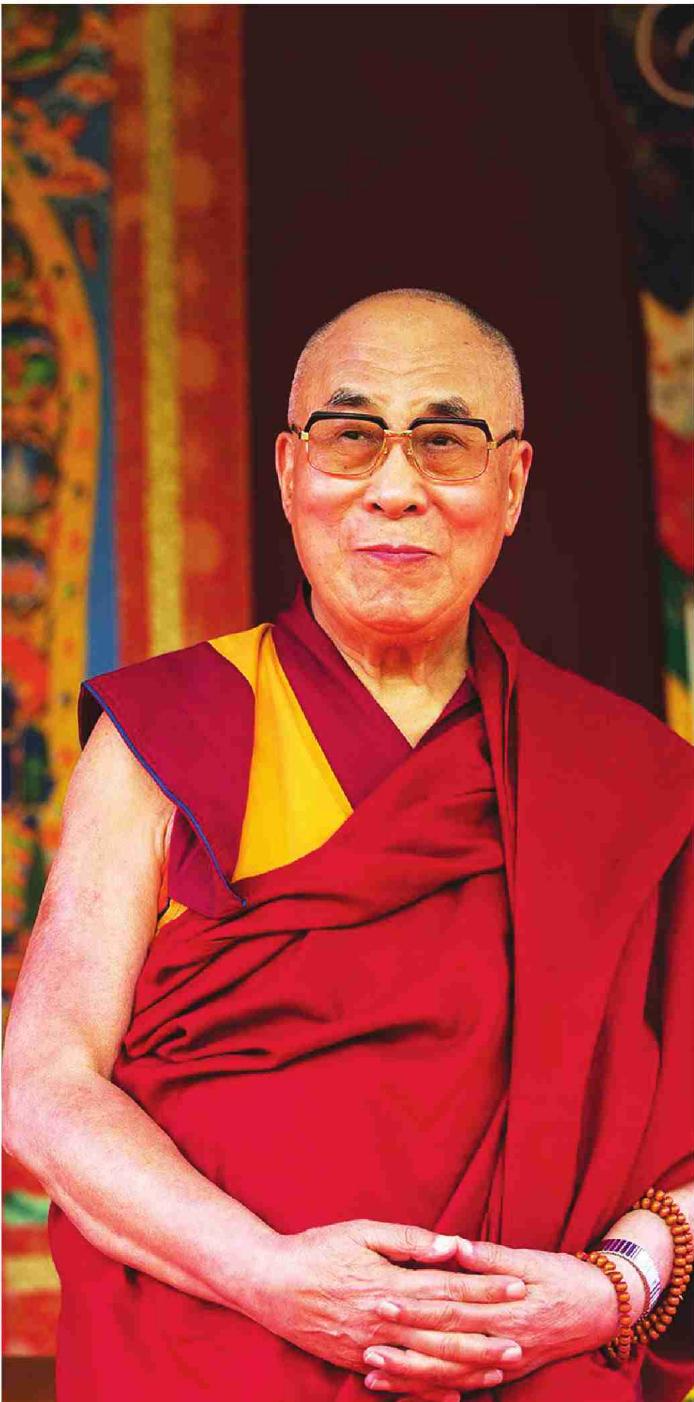
The North-east region has a special place in the heart of the Dalai Lama as he had entered India through this region, and the Sixth Dalai Lama was also born in Arunachal Pradesh. He still vividly remembers his journey through the North-east region and asserted that he would never forget the love and affection that he had received from the people of the region.

I had the privilege of doing a long interview with the Dalai Lama in his residence in Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh on November 3, 2016 on behalf of *The Assam Tribune*, right from the time of entering his room, I was bowled over by his generous behaviour. Despite his busy schedule, he patiently answered the questions put forward before him and repeatedly asked about the North-east region. He claimed that the world would definitely be a better place to live in in the days to come despite the fact that different countries of the world have been witnessing large-scale violence. "A peaceful world is not only my hope but I strongly believe that one day, everyone will understand the futility of violence. More and more youths are fed up with violence, which is a very positive development. At one point of time, different European countries used to fight among themselves, which resulted in unnecessary loss of life, but now they have realized the futility of such war and formed the European Union for overall development," he pointed out.

The Dalai Lama further pointed out that the religious tolerance and peace of mind are also key to peace. Giving an example, he said, "I am a Buddhist. But I respect all religions. I have seen a very positive development in different parts of the world. I keep visiting various countries and majority of the people who come to listen to me are not Buddhists. This proves that people have started respecting other religions," he said.

The Dalai Lama asserted that violence would never solve any problem, rather it would aggravate the problems. If one has the commitment and self belief, there is no need for resorting to violence. He pointed out that they have been agitating for their rights for such a long time, but never resorted to violence. "We are fighting for a just cause and there is no need for resorting to violence. If you extend the hand of friendship, today's enemy can become tomorrow's friends."

Though the Chinese Government is still adopting a tough stand on the demand of the Tibetans, the Dalai Lama is hopeful of a bright future for Tibet. He said that some day or the other, the Chinese Government would realize their mistakes and accept the demand of the Tibetans. He pointed out that Tibet was never a part of China, but in the present global scenario, the Tibetans have agreed to accept a "middle way" and have agreed to stay with China if proper autonomy with high degree of self rule is given. The Tibetans should also be allowed to preserve their unique culture and spirituality along with the rich environment of Tibet, he said.



Partha Pratim Hazarika
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We at The Assam Tribune

"We at the AT are proud that people for whom we stand have unflinchingly showed their goodwill for generations together.

For us, journalism is more than a profession; we believe AT stands for a public good that is vital for the democracy this great country boasts of."

The founder of this group of publications perhaps may not have envisaged the distance it would cover in the way it has, but he had chosen the path to be trod, and that he did with a vision that has guided us all along. After 79 years today, we are in awe of that vision and farsightedness with which RG fought against all odds to give Assam and India's North-east its first English daily.

Since its inception in 1939 as a weekly newspaper, the AT has shunned the responsibility of being the mouthpiece of this region. From the time it surfaced onto the media firmament, the AT has remained the trusted voice for the people of Assam and the North-east, irrespective of the changing circumstances and the region's wide ethno-social diversity.

Our founder was driven by an exemplary objective that shaped his

endeavour: give the news as it is. Now after 79 years, we are still following that same, simple motto – providing the masses the news as it happens. And we are proud of that, for we have shown a kind of resilience – against the temptations of commercialization of facts – which is recognised as rare by friends and rivals alike.

We at the AT are free from any managerial shackles. Like the great RG, his successors too have never ever interfered with the nuances of publication. We are fortunate to have a kind of freedom that is not only rare but also unparalleled in the annals of journalism in India. However, ironically enough, that very freedom is the quintessential shackle of ethics, morality and propriety that has kept our legs tied. That very freedom has forbidden us to deviate from the chosen path – give the news as it is. For over 79 years, we at the AT have followed this with single-mindedness; we have

made relentless efforts to tread along the avowed path our predecessors had chosen for their future which is now our present.

We at the AT are proud that people for whom we stand have unflinchingly showed their goodwill for generations together. For us, journalism is more than a profession; we believe AT stands for a public good that is vital for the democracy this great country boasts of. We have told stories that needed to be told, stories that helped us understand the world around us, stories that have sincerely tried to make us understand one another better.

We at the AT feel that the years gone by have been well spent, filled as they have been with purposeful activities. To clothe this very thought in the words of our founder editor Lakshminath Phukan, "These have been years of varied experience of hopes and disappointments, of success

achieved and failures undergone, of a battle won and another lost, of mistakes committed and faults rectified."

Yes, we at the AT are of the belief that we are yet to attain the perfection that had been visualized; we are yet to reach the summit that was aimed at. There are goals to be reached; there are dreams to be fulfilled. Throughout these long years, one thing is clear – the efforts to cope with the strains of surmounting all odds and facing every challenge have not been lacking.

We at the AT are proud of the fact that we have trod a long, arduous path. At the same time, we are aware of the miles that lie ahead, the distance that awaits our traversing. The efforts to reach our avowed goals, to live up to the trust, and to carry out the responsibility bestowed upon us – we won't relent in our endeavours, never will we waiver.





Present building of The Assam Tribune.



Radha Govinda Baruah

A DREAM come TRUE

The idea to start an English newspaper in Assam originated over a cup of tea. It was in the early part of 1939 at Dibrugarh. I used to sit with Tarun Bhattacharjee and talk on all subjects on earth. Bhattacharjee talked generally of philosophy but one day when the cups that were going round the talk somehow switched over to the newspaper. Bhattacharjee spoke so convincingly of an English newspaper that the idea of starting an English weekly newspaper generated in my mind.

The idea got such a hold on me that I could not sleep that night. I got up at five in the morning but found that my small Morris-I was incapacitated with two flat tyres and I had to take out a push bike to take me to Mancotta village, about five miles from the town, to meet my foreman late Nabin Chandra Gogoi. I had to consult him to form an approximate idea of the cost of producing a weekly newspaper. After I found that the cost was within the range of possibility, I called at the house of late Kedarnath Goswami, the then Editor of the *Times of Assam*. When I sounded him of my project, he was candid and sceptical of it. He said that there was hardly any room for two English weeklies in Assam. Actually his doubts made me more determined and I made up my mind to see that a second weekly got its footing in Assam.

Later I met three good friends of mine – late Jirion Ram Phukan, Bipin Borgohain and Sarangashwar Rajkhowa. Though we were of different ages, a firm friendship existed among us and I consulted them on important matters. All of them were very keen on the idea and accompanied me to the bungalow of RG Boyle, the then superintendent of Majan Tea Estate and Vice-Chairman of the Assam Branch of the Indian Tea Association. Boyle had been a great well-wisher of mine and he heartily welcomed my idea and promised me every help and cooperation which encouraged me a great deal. As a special request, I asked him to suggest a suitable name for the proposed newspaper. The next day he sent me three names – "New Statesman",

"Assam News", and "Assam Tribune". I found the last name most appropriate and accepted it.

The next question was to choose an Editor. Several names were suggested but Borgohain clamped down for Lakshminath Phukan who was then a Sub-editor in the Hindustan Standard of Calcutta. I wrote to Phukan but he refused the offer. Then I personally went to Calcutta and though at first he refused saying that he had enough bitter experience with newspapermen in Assam, I was ultimately successful in persuading him to take up the responsibility.

We decided to publish the newspaper from the then Broome Press at Dibrugarh. I had my younger brother, late KG Baruah and late Someswar Baruah of Tinsukia as partners. On Friday, August 3, 1939 we worked the whole day and night and the first issue of the weekly *Assam Tribune* saw the light of the day on August 4, 1939. Boyle, who baptised the paper, gave me full support by issuing circulars to the tea gardens to subscribe the paper and also to send their advertisements.

In the initial stages, I had to weather many a storm. I had to compete with the well-established English dailies from Calcutta, besides the *Times of Assam* which was also published from Dibrugarh. Phukan was the only person in the editorial department as I could not afford any Sub-editor or proof reader. Later I brought Raian Shah (Professor of Cotton College) to work part time by paying him a meagre salary. My big headache was that I had no financial backing. I had to spend everything I had – cash and security papers and mortgaged all my insurance policies. My partners were set against me but the words of encouragement from late Jibon Ram Phukan and Borgohain kept me going. Within a month of the birth of the *Assam Tribune* the Second World War broke out with the resultant difficulty in obtaining newsprint, etc. But the hurdles I came across made me more determined to carry on. At long last the clouds cleared, the newspaper came to stay and started paying. The success of the weekly *Assam Tribune* made me think of starting an English daily. Even Editor Phukan was hesitant

pointing out the huge difference between a weekly and a daily. My partners too were dead against. But I was determined, I purchased their shares, dissolved the partnerships and decided to go it alone. I considered Guwahati would be the best place in Assam to publish a daily from. Finance again stood in the way. My relative and intimate friend, Haren Sarma (now merged into the Comilla Union Bank) (now merged into the United Bank of India) which agreed to finance me. Susil Chakravarty of Calcutta who was always by my side was a source of inspiration to me.

In January 1946, the present Assam Tribune site was purchased from the late Mohini Mohan Goswami. During those days this Chandramari area was full of jungles and the road was a kutchha one. I used to stay with my brother-in-law late GP Baruah (better known as John Sabeh) and every morning I went to the site on a push bike to supervise the construction works. Late Jamuna Singh, watchman and my odd job man who was with me at Dibrugarh, came to Guwahati too. He was with me through thick and thin and I treated him as a worthy friend. One evening just after dusk I was about to return home from the construction site when the villagers saw a tiger near the Sarania hills about two furlongs away. They came out with lathis and drums to scare away the tiger. My friend Jamuna Singh strongly advocated against my returning to my lodgings at Uzambazar and I had to pass the night at Chandramari. I slept on a hard wooden cot and for dinner I had some "moori" and tea without sugar or milk. There was no electricity in the area and the water was full of mosquitoes.

Anyways, work progressed according to schedule. The weekly *Assam Tribune* appeared from Dibrugarh for the last time on August 7, 1946 and the next issue – that of August 14 – appeared from Guwahati. The centre of publication was changed within a week and despite the long distances between the two places we were successful in maintaining our publication without any break. I consider this a great feat. The weekly was converted into a daily with effect from September 30, 1946.

Having had no experience in the production of a daily newspaper and my meagre funds not permitting me to engage experienced technical men to see me through, I had to face tremendous difficulties at the beginning. From Dibrugarh, I brought four or five experienced compositors and two machinemen. The rest I had to recruit at Guwahati with great difficulty. There were only a handful of printing presses at Guwahati during those days and efficient and experienced technical men were hard to find. It was a test of all my knowledge and skill in printing work I acquired in managing the Baruah Press of Dibrugarh since 1930.

I had sometimes to rectify machines and supervise all work from early morning till late into the night. Those were the most difficult days of my career and I still wonder how I could go through them all.

Naba Barthakur, a distant relative of mine who was

"Those were the hectic days and all of us were busy. The hard work we put in yielded results but it was very tough going. Newspaper subscribers were very few at that time and payment too was very bad. I incurred heavy losses but did not give up."

working with me at Dibrugarh, came to Guwahati and became the mainstay of the organization. After working whole day in the press, I used to dictate letters to Barthakur who typed them directly on the typewriter. We carried on like this till midnight. Then both us were again up and doing by 4 am next morning. We ourselves did the folding and packing of the newspapers and simultaneously trained up new hands. We went on like that for a few months. Then came Jatin Kakati who looked after the accounts side and also used to work with us from 4 o'clock in the morning. Those were the hectic days and all of us were busy. The hard work we put in yielded results but it was very tough going. Newspaper subscribers were very few at that time and payment too was very bad. I incurred heavy losses but did not give up. But all our labour and hard work, the time and money spent were not in vain. Gradually The Assam Tribune got a footing. Our editorial policy was independent and the people came to appreciate it. But in pursuing our independent policy we incurred the displeasure of the then State Government. We were blacklisted. All government subscriptions stopped and the advertisements were cut off. As advertisements constitute the main source of revenue of a newspaper we were in very difficult straits. Finance shrunk and the paper almost founder. Ultimately the Government was good enough to withdraw the ban and advertisements started to flow in again.

From then, all matters started improving. In fact since 1949 *The Assam Tribune* had never had any rival in Assam, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. We are now proposing to bring out an Assamese daily. Necessary permission from the Government has been received and preparations are being made to publish the paper at the earliest possible time.

I was fortunate in having LN Phukan as the Editor of the paper since its inception. After 25 years of devoted service, he retired as Chief Editor only on July 31 last year and Satis Ch Kakati took full charge of the newspaper.

I am also glad to say that cordial relationship between the management and members of the various departments has contributed largely to the success of the organization. The Assam Tribune is a happy family and I sincerely hope it will remain as such.

This is in short the story of *The Assam Tribune*. The paper is now 25 years old after surviving many a critical time. It is the only journal in Assam to continue its existence for 25 years without any break. It is today a part of Assam's political and cultural life. I am really a very happy man today to be able to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the paper the survival of which was a question mark at one time. With God's grace and the good wishes of all, may it live long to serve the people and the region all the time to come.

(RG wrote this on the occasion of AT's silver jubilee celebrated on April 2, 1965.)

Established media organizations, which have painstakingly built up their reputation through decades of conscientious journalism, were suddenly challenged by fly by night operators, whose concept of news-significance was based on the size of the font the headlines were printed.

Secondly, the intrusion of television towards the middle of the 1980s, when the audio-visual media became yet another segment of overall media components, coerced players of the print media to change their modus operandi. Right from its commencement television, begun in India as a tightly controlled arm of the establishment named "Daardarshan," played out its role as a purveyor of news without an iota of credibility.

Private entrants to the arena had their own axes to grind, the greatest casualty being the "objective" presentation of news and views. Also, the problem with the audio-visual media was that it had to attract viewership in order to survive, for without viewers there is no advertisement, and without advertisement there is no channel! Thus the process of sensationalising the most ordinary news item and making it sound earth-shaking began with the intrusion of the electronic media.

Corporate houses which could boost their business prospects by controlling a media group, politicians who had made their piles through dubious means, businesses with an eye on cornering a sizeable segment of Government advertisements – there was a frantic scramble to grab a slice of the lucrative media pie. Unfortunately, confronted with such developments, rather than stand its

ground, a larger component of the print media succumbed and took the easy way out. Today, in newspapers, overt sensationalism is the order of the day. Equally unfortunate is the lackadaisical attitude of much of the Fourth Estate to objective presentation of news and views, with many print-media groups openly flaunting partisan stances.

Also, in order to keep circulation intact, the print media like the audio-visual began pandering to the lowest common denominator, with reams of newsprint devoted to salacious goings on in the glamour world. The trivialization of the print media has meant that in today's Fourth Estate the intelligentsia as well as informed journalism has been marginalized. Gross commercialism and the need to survive in a fiercely competitive milieu have resulted in such insidious phenomena as "paid news."

There are very few newspapers in India which have refused to bow down to populist pressures and retain the objectivity and integrity sine qua non for journalistic excellence. It is to Assam's pride that the premier English newspaper of the State, *The Assam Tribune*, belongs to this select group. Headed by reputed Editors since its very inception, this iconic newspaper has eschewed sensationalism as well as presentation of 'doctored' news. Rather than pandering



Epitome of credibility

Arup Kumar Dutta

In the post-independence era, before the advent of television and internet, the print media, then the primary source for authentic news and views, possessed credibility which, unfortunately, has evaporated with the passage of time. Two factors were responsible for this. First, India in the last few decades has witnessed a phenomenal increase in the number of newspaper and magazines both at the national and regional levels. But not every entity which crept in through the portals of the Fourth Estate subscribed to journalistic ethics of objectivity.

Corporate houses which could boost their business prospects by controlling a media group, politicians who had made their piles through dubious means, businesses with an eye on cornering a sizeable segment of Government advertisements – there was a frantic scramble to grab a slice of the lucrative media pie.

Unfortunately, confronted with such developments, rather than stand its ground, a larger component of the print media succumbed and took the easy way out. Today, in newspapers, overt sensationalism is the order of the day. Equally unfortunate is the lackadaisical attitude of much of the Fourth Estate to objective presentation of news and views, with many print-media groups openly flaunting partisan stances.

Also, in order to keep circulation intact, the print media like the audio-visual began pandering to the lowest common denominator, with reams of newsprint devoted to salacious goings on in the glamour world. The trivialization of the print media has meant that in today's Fourth Estate the intelligentsia as well as informed journalism has been marginalized.

Gross commercialism and the need to survive in a fiercely competitive milieu have resulted in such insidious phenomena as "paid news."

There are very few newspapers in India which have refused to bow down to populist pressures and retain the objectivity and integrity sine qua non for journalistic excellence. It is to Assam's pride that the premier English newspaper of the State, *The Assam Tribune*, belongs to this select group. Headed by reputed Editors since its very inception, this iconic newspaper has eschewed sensationalism as well as presentation of 'doctored' news. Rather than pandering

to shifting taste of readers, the paper has upheld the earlier tradition of newspapers being moulders of public opinion.

Political neutrality enables it to print all shades of opinion, trenchant criticisms as well as suggestions. By refusing to sensationalise any news item and presenting facts as they are reported, this newspaper has established a reputation as an epitome of credibility. Though it has not followed the shift in paradigm which marks current Indian print media, it has not been debilitated, thereby disproving the belief that if one does not stay with the herd, one is apt to lose one's way. Despite sticking to its ethos of objectivity as well as conventional manner of news presentation *The Assam Tribune* continues to thrive and prosper, thereby making it worthy of emulation by media entities which too are dismayed at the manner in which news is being currently purveyed.

For outsiders, this paper is a primary source of information about Assam and the North-east, as testified to by the impact it makes on the framing of Central Government policies. As for the people of Assam, if they have bestowed their trust and support on this newspaper, it is because they acknowledge that for the last seventy-five years *The Assam Tribune* has always spoken out on behalf of this State and championed its cause.



The not so hot line

When the President of India, R Venkataraman, visited *The Assam Tribune* premises to inaugurate the golden jubilee celebrations in December 1988, the Telephone Department kept three hotlines through to New Delhi in the improvised lounge behind the dias.

In contrast, things were not so hot way back in 1951 when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru came to visit the Tribune campus. Panditji was midway through the lunch arranged in his honour at the Tribune Club when a trunk call came for him from Delhi. As soon as he was informed Panditji, as was usual with him, jumped to his feet and with quick strides rushed to the telephone operator who mumbled something to Panditji's "Hello". Even after repeated "What's it?", Panditji could not elicit a comprehensive sentence from the nervous operator and in desperation asked to be put through to Delhi. Then there ensued complete silence for about five minutes raising the speculation that the helpless operator must have fled from his post in utter fear.

Pandit shouted "Hello, Prime Minister Speaking" for about ten times with a voice rising to a crescendo; ultimately, he banged the receiver down on the cradle, strode back to join the awestruck guests and then sat down to finish his lunch.



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru during his visit to The Assam Tribune campus in 1951.



RG with the then Information Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi at the silver jubilee celebrations of AT in 1965 in New Delhi.



Nehru having lunch at The Assam Tribune campus in 1951.

Everest conquered

On the night of June 2, 1953, the Sub-editor on night shift while waiting for the print order copy was having a snooze sitting in the chair with his head placed on the dictionary on the desk. He felt the urge to empty the bladder. He went out and coming back heard the teletypewriter clicking fast and out of curiosity looked what was coming in it with flag signals. The news was that Mount Everest has been conquered by the expedition of Col John Hunt. It was 2.30 in the morning and the final print order was ready. The night sub editor stopped everything and after discussion with the Foreman carried the story with an eight-column splash. Next day when the Calcutta newspapers arrived at Guwahati, it was seen that none of them could carry this world scoop. *The Assam Tribune* scored the news of the decade! A smiling and happy Radha Govinda Baruah, presented the Sub-editor, late Tripurendra Dasgupta, a costly wrist watch as a token of appreciation.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the gathering during AT's platinum jubilee in Guwahati on November 29, 2014.



*Nehru with a copy of The Assam Tribune
in his hand*

Dakota to the rescue

The publishers of dailies in Assam often have to face problems unique to the region. The surface link of the State of Assam with the rest of India, being precarious, often got snapped for various periods during the monsoon season.

The worst situation faced was in 1971 when successive high floods in North Bihar, North Bengal and Assam stopped

surface traffic to Assam for a long period. In fact, the damage to the road and railway lines and the innumerable bridges thereon was so severe that the supply of newsprint, the most vital raw material, was totally stopped for about three months bringing disaster to *The Assam Tribune* and its other publications. The only hope was to airlift newsprint from

Calcutta at any cost.

The only aircraft capable of carrying newsprint rolls at that time was a Dakota plane belonging to a private organization. Even then it was fully booked by the West Bengal Government for airdropping medicines, foodstuffs and other essentials to the marooned people in North Bengal. After much persuasion, a compromise so-

lution was found and *The Assam Tribune* was allowed to use the Dakota for airlifting newsprint to Guwahati on alternate days only.

Thus, a most critical situation in the life of the paper was averted and the publication could be continued by airlifting newsprint for more than two months even though at a colossal cost!

The Dalai connection



Beginning on April 12, 1959 till his arrival in Tezpur on April 18, 1959, The Assam Tribune carried extensive and exclusive reportage (done by late Naresh Rajkhowa) on the Dalai Lama's great escape to India and his consequent asylum. The Assam Tribune happens to be the only newspaper in entire eastern India to cover the crucial event, while late Rajkhowa was the first Indian journalist to interview the Dalai Lama.



The old building of The Assam Tribune.



Reputation for credibility

Atal Behari Vajpeyi

t gives me great pleasure to be present at the inauguration of the diamond jubilee celebrations of *The Assam Tribune*. It is a privilege to be among so many distinguished guests.

I Since its inception on August 4, 1939, *The Assam Tribune* has evolved from being a sedate weekly courier of news to a robust daily newspaper. In these sixty years, this newspaper has proved itself to be a powerful instrument of social, political and economic change in Assam and other North-eastern States.

Those of us who live in Delhi are rarely aware of newspapers published from other States, especially distant States like Assam. They are referred to as regional papers. But just like India's national identity is a sum total of her regional identities, India's national media would be incomplete without what is described as the regional Press.

In any event, labels like national Press and regional Press are often misleading. If we look at the history of our regional Press, we will find that their contribution, both as vehicles of information and instruments of change, is no less, if not more, than that of the so-called national Press.

Nor should we forget that newspapers like *The Assam Tribune* were never a part of the imperial enterprise. On the contrary, they contributed to the freedom movement by refusing to be co-opted by India's colonial rulers and openly opposing the policies of India's colonial Government.

For the owners and editors of these newspapers, journalism was not a commercial proposition. For them it was a mission that demanded unimpeachable integrity and fierce intellectual independence. Soon after launching *The Assam Tribune*, late Radha Govinda Baruah proved that he had both – in abundant measure.

Severe restrictions were placed on newspapers, especially those run by Indians, under the Defence of India Rules following the outbreak of the Second World War. Undaunted by these restrictions, late Radha Govinda Baruah maintained the highest standards of journalism, combining them with the nationalist fervour that was then sweeping through the whole of India.

He displayed exemplary courage by standing up against the Cabinet Mission Plan. Starting then, *The Assam Tribune* was in the forefront of arousing the latent nationalism of India's North-east, thus making a major contribution to the national freedom movement, and to the subsequent consolidation of the country.

After independence too, *The Assam Tribune* has displayed remarkable national perspective in its editorial columns, even while playing the role of a catalytic agent in the social, political and economic changes that Assam has witnessed in the five decades since Independence.

The Assam Tribune deserves credit for actively channelling the North-eastern States' regional aspirations towards India's national development efforts. By taking up issues like the establishment of the Gauhati University – a separate High Court, a radio station and oil refineries – *The Assam Tribune* has rightly focused attention on the development and other legitimate needs of our North-eastern region.

In all this, *The Assam Tribune* has been propelled by the belief – by the correct perception – that national prosperity will be possible only when all States prosper.

Promoting the cause of development in Assam – indeed, the entire North-east – however, is only one facet of *The Assam Tribune*'s contribution in the post-Independence era. Whenever India has faced a challenge to her sovereignty and territorial integrity, this newspaper has played a frontline role in mobilizing opinion and boosting public morale. This was most evident during the 1962 Chinese aggression and more recently during this summer's Kargil conflict.

During the dark years of Emergency when every effort was made to curb the freedom of expression and impose severe restrictions on media, many a newspaper, as has been said, chose to crawl when asked to bend. Maintaining the high standards of journalistic integrity set by late Radha Govinda Baruah, *The Assam Tribune* was one of the few newspapers that chose to stand up and fight. The commitment, I am happy to note, is still intact.

Indeed, in an age where we find principles being compromised and the sense of mission fast disappearing from the noble profession of journalism, *The Assam Tribune* has steadfastly and fiercely protected its integrity and independence.

I congratulate the editorial team and owners of *The Assam Tribune* for their commitment to the highest norms of journalism. And, in keeping with this newspaper's history, I call upon them to play a greater role in the coming years in all nation-building efforts.

My Government is committed to a prosperous India and, therefore, a prosperous North-eastern region. Rapid economic growth and equitable social development figure high on my Government's agenda. You can help us achieve these goals by continuing to play a constructive role and serving as a bridge between the people of Assam and the rest of India.

We believe that freedom of expression is the cornerstone of a democracy. A vibrant media ensures a vibrant democracy. It acts as a watchdog, fulfilling its primary responsibility of keeping the people fully informed.

While it is the duty of the media to keep the people informed, it is also necessary that this duty should be fulfilled with absolute scrupulousness, without fear or favour. My Government appreciates the fact that due to existing laws, access to official information is often difficult, if not impossible. Often this results in dissemination of misinformation or even disinformation.

In order to make information more accessible to the people, we are working on a Right to Information law. Once this law is in position, media will stand to gain tremendously in its efforts to keep the people informed.

Similarly, our initiatives on the information technology front should enable media to keep pace with the times. I urge newspapers, especially those published from the North-east and other far-flung areas, to make full use of these initiatives to better serve the interests of their readers.

As in the past, *The Assam Tribune* has set an example for other regional papers by going online. Though published from Guwahati, *The Assam Tribune* can be read by anybody from anywhere in the world now.

I thank *The Assam Tribune* family for providing me with this opportunity to join the newspaper's diamond jubilee celebrations and recall its services to the nation for the last sixty years.

Thank you.



(This was the former Prime Minister's address to the gathering on the occasion of the diamond jubilee of the AT, held in New Delhi on December 4, 1999.)